

ACORN

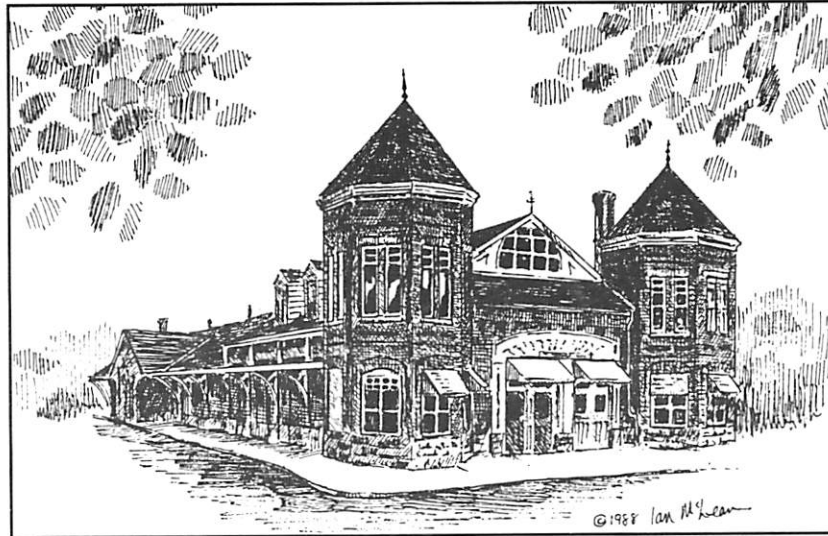
The Architectural Conservancy of Ontario Newsletter

XV

Spring-Summer 1990



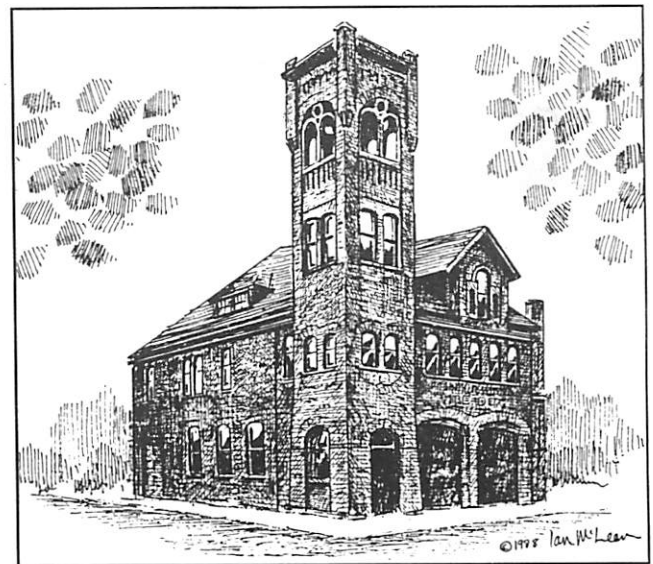
1



SOLD



CLOSED



THREATENED

ACORN XV 1

SPRING-SUMMER 1990

The Architectural Conservancy of Ontario Inc.
10 Adelaide Street East, Toronto, Ontario M5C 1J3
Telephone (416) 367-8075

A society incorporated in 1933 for the preservation of the best examples of the architecture of the province, and for the protection of its places of natural beauty.

ACO Executive

President

Gilles Miramontes

Senior Vice-President

Spencer Higgins

Vice-President

Julia Beck

Vice-President

John Boulden

Treasurer

Brad Hardie

Secretary

Elizabeth Dashwood

Past President

Roy Turner

Members-at-Large

Donna Baker

Margaret Bailey

Ian McGillivray

Alice King Sculthorpe

William Moffet

Glen Tozer

Peter John Stokes

Advisory Board Chariman

William Moffet

Executive Secretary

Ann Hughson

Editorial Staff

Editor-in-Chief

Marg Rowell

Editors Emeriti

Marion Walker Garland

Peter John Stokes

Cover:

Market Building, Woodstock
sketch by Ian McLean

Fairfield House, Amherstview
photo by Rodger C. Greig

Old Fire Hall, Woodstock
sketch by Ian McLean

Table of Contents

President's Report

Editorial

Annual General Meeting

Branch Reports

Advisory Board

Fairfield House and Park

Around and About Ontario

Book Reviews

Coming Events

Bits "N" Pieces

Branch Editors

Quinte Region

Rodger C. Greig

Cherry Valley, Ontario

K0K 1P0

Port Hope

Tom Cruickshank

92 King Street

Port Hope, Ontario

L1A 2R7

(416) 885-9734

Toronto Region

G. Onen

30 Inglewood Drive

Toronto, Ontario

M4T 1G8

(416) 923-5492

Hamilton-Niagara Region

Ann Gillespie

30 Canada Street

Hamilton, Ontario

L8P 1N7

Heritage Cambridge

Cathy Blackburn

23 Roseview Avenue

Cambridge, Ontario

N1R 4A5

(519) 522-2225

Brant County

Michael Keefe

165 Tollgate Road

Brantford, Ontario

N3R 5A2

(519) 759-0948

North Waterloo Region

Joyce Arndt

54 Forestwood Drive

Kitchener, Ontario

N2N 1B2

London Region

Nancy Tausky

288 James Street

London, Ontario

N6A 1X3

Huron County

Christopher Borgal

66 Victoria Street North

P.O. Box 276

Goderich, Ontario

N7A 3Z2

Oxford County

Edwin Bennett

465 Vincent Street

Woodstock, Ontario

N5S 5M9

(519) 537-3325

President's Report

The activities of the ACO during my one year term of office centered around the implementation of the recommendations of the Intern's Report. Some of the more readily implemented changes were effected, not all of them entirely successful (e.g. Saturday meetings), none of them of particular consequence in furthering the objectives of the ACO.

But they did set the stage for the gradual expansion of ACO activities. The purchase, restoration and renovation of the Skinner/Jackson House in Camden East is a pilot project for future similar endeavours; the establishment of the Oxford Branch encourages the founding of other new branches; the publication of brochures on the particular interests and activities of the branches and the organization of a series of heritage workshops, as special projects funded by the Ministry of Citizenship and Culture, pave the way for further such co-operation; the improved format of ACORN, and (how can I say this without slighting the tremendous contribution of the retiring editor?) a new editor, promises a bigger and better ACORN; the revitalization of the Programme Development Committee, and the establishment of a Fund Raising Committee and a Membership Committee, are expected to lead to improved funding and increased membership; the recognition of the Advisory Board as an emissary, particularly in areas where there is no branch, could result in a higher profile for the ACO; all are indicators that the ACO is growing and expanding its sphere of influence.

In the next few months, the recommendations of the Intern's Report will have to be considered by the Programme Development Committee, and passed to Council, with prioritized recommendations, for implementation. If the prominence of the ACO, as envisioned by the Intern's Report, is to be realized, three essential requirements must be addressed: There must be more support from the membership as a whole by participation in the work of the various committees — Council members alone cannot carry the load: The Fund Raising Committee must be aggressive in its efforts, and the Membership Committee must be equally vigorous, if additional funding is to be found and new members are to be recruited: And as the culmination of these efforts, an Executive Director must be engaged as soon as possible, to follow through on the good intentions of Council, and to ensure the co-ordination and

momentum of ACO activities, at both Branch and Council levels.

I regret that I will not be able to serve a second year as President. My heartfelt thanks to those who assisted me while I was in office.

The next two or three years will be crucial to the growth of the ACO. If the aspirations of the Intern's Report are to be fulfilled, the incoming Executive will be charged with the task of guiding the ACO through what can and should be the most significant period of its history.

Roy B. Turner

Editorial

It is with a sense of anticipation and excitement and some trepidation that I begin the job of editing the ACORN. It is difficult to follow in the footsteps of Marion Walker Garland and Peter John Stokes, but it is my hope to continue the quality of the past ACORNs. Hopefully we will be publishing three issues a year in February, June and October. The budget is limited and costs of printing and mailing are ever increasing. With this in mind the ACO Council has agreed to explore the possibilities of advertising in the ACORN.

We were sorry to hear that the Heritage Canada magazine, Canadian Heritage, will no longer be published due to increased cost of production and mailing.

We also regret to inform you that the Durham Branch is no longer in existence. Hopefully this is temporary and if enough volunteers can be found to run the operation of the branch, it will be revived in the future.

You will notice the new format for this issue. Spencer Higgins, Chairman of the ACORN Committee, suggested the change. It has been shamelessly modeled on a similar newsletter published by the Getty Conservation Institute in the United States.

I wish to thank all branch editors and all other contributors for sending material for this issue.

Annual General Meeting

The meeting was held on Saturday, April 28, at the Ontario Heritage Centre, 10 Adelaide Street East, Toronto. About 50 people attended. Presentations were made by those branches with representatives in attendance. The representatives gave an overview of the year's activities highlighting the best and worst projects and outlining the current activities.

An excellent lunch, organized by Donna Baker, was had at the King Edward Hotel, followed by a tour of the principal public rooms in the hotel.

The Annual General Meeting followed lunch at which time the new executive was elected (see page 1). Douglas McPhie, ACO Treasurer, gave the financial report and announced his resignation since he has moved to London. In his final report he presented the ACO with three important challenges.

- *General operating funds are very small and greater effort should be made to raise money for this purpose, particularly if the ACO is ever to afford a much needed Executive Director.*
- *Greater care must be taken in issuing charitable donation receipts. He recommended that this process should be centralized and be handled by the Council office.*
- *Due to anticipated decrease in government funding in this period of austerity, new sources and means of funding must be found.*

The ACO is indebted to Douglas McPhie. He has done outstanding work since he joined us in December of 1984. He guided us from our small budget in 1984-85 to the present much healthier financial situation. He also produced a Treasurer's Handbook for branch treasurers and encouraged all branches to have the same year end as Council has. The ACO is very grateful to Douglas McPhie for his fine work.

Branch posters were then presented. The quality of the posters was excellent with many of them featuring photographs of the architecturally interesting buildings in the area represented by the branch.

The ACORN session then followed the posters. Peter Stokes spoke briefly about ACORN and its importance to our organization as the vehicle of information between the branches. He stressed the importance of having copy in on time. Mr.

Stokes then introduced Marg Rowell, the new editor. I outlined my future plans for ACORN.

The last speaker of the afternoon was Julia Beck, Vice President of Council and Chairman of the Programme Development Committee. Julia Beck outlined some of her ideas of what's ahead for the ACO. At a Council meeting in May, Council accepted four motions presented by Julia Beck concerning the Programme Development Committee and arising from a meeting of the old Committee held early in April.

- *The Committee should consist of 3 elected members of Council, including at least one member of the Executive, plus 5 members representing branches.*
- *The responsibilities of the Committee should include: The introduction of new programmes; The implementation of the recommendations of the Intern Report; Other matters not falling directly under other committees:*
- *The Committee will organize Regional Meetings, to be held at least once a year.*
- *Since the costs of administration and of producing and mailing the ACORN have risen considerably in recent years, the Committee will try to coordinate dates for membership renewal. In this way it is hoped to reduce the costs of servicing members who are very often in arrears.*

The meeting ended with the Theatre Block Walk led by Alec Keefer. Alec pointed out various features of the buildings and gave a sketch of the buildings' histories. He made the walk so interesting that some shoppers at the Eaton Centre stopped to listen and look.

*Marg Rowell
Elizabeth Dashwood*

Quinte Region

BRANCH COMMUNICATIONS

Our Quinte Region Branch of ACO has made a success of holding Quarterly Branch Council Meetings, always at 10 a.m. of the Wednesday ten days after our regular third Sunday events of January, April, July and October. Each Quarterly Branch Council meeting has been at an architecturally notable house and included pot-luck luncheon. The business meeting is commonly over by lunchtime. This meeting has been serving as our regular Branch executive meeting, though our by-laws actually call for six per year.

Newsletter editorial sessions are being held six per year, the first Tuesday in February, April, June, August, October, and December. These also involve lunch, and the lunchtime in this case serves as an absolute, dramatic, and highly visible deadline for receipt of copy to publish. This has worked well, with people bringing in their written material and pictures and enjoying a get-together, while others may have sent their articles in ahead of time.

The mailing committee can attend too, and may find this an advantageous opportunity to get the envelopes ready, since plenty of help is available. Flyers advertising the two upcoming third-Sunday monthly events should be on hand at this same time for inclusion.

The editor has to be well-prepared, for he undertakes to paste the newsletter up that evening so that he can deliver the master copy to the printer next morning. If all goes well the mailing committee then can stuff and lick the envelopes and mail the

newsletters late that afternoon, Wednesday, in time for many members to get theirs before the weekend and therefore at least nine days before the first event the flyers advertise.

We have been printing three hundred newsletters, and actually mailing a little over two hundred.

Of course, the idea now presents itself that we might very well amalgamate the regular bi-monthly editorial session with the required bi-monthly executive council meeting: if the secretary was speedy the official minutes could perfectly well go right into the newsletter that very afternoon, to everyone's great advantage.

Our Region is vast, and all this is in aid of good communications with as little extra travel as possible. Daytime meetings seem desirable for various reasons. And no travelling can be justified that does not allow the members a chance to get acquainted with the interesting buildings of the area.

Other ACO regional branches are big too, and we would like to exchange ideas on how to keep such large units functioning effectively.

RICKARTON CASTLE

Picton used to have two castles, but with the disastrous explosion and subsequent demolition of Castle Villeneuve four years ago, it is reduced to having one.

Rickarton Castle, like Castle Villeneuve, must have started as a simple symmetrical box of a house, but just before 1863 it developed the trappings of a castle: A massive square tower at one end and plenty of miscellaneous rambling additions at the other, crenellations along every roofline, and shapely Tudor gothic verandahs in back to look over the harbour.

The tower accommodates a dazzling ballroom, not very large, but benefiting enormously by a curving end wall that intrudes into the space of the original house, creating a bend in the main hall. The curving end and classical columns and delicate plasterwork of this ballroom recall the similar rooms added to or incorporated into Castle Villeneuve and the Ross/McMullen house in Picton at about the same date. See *The Settler's Dream* for all these houses. And we're reminded that Anglican rector William Macaulay greatly enlarged his dining parlour in that same era, or maybe even as early as 1851, though he didn't achieve a curved end wall or columns.

RODGER C. GREIG



Rickarton Castle, Picton.
West end seen from the road

Col. Rylands, who did the gothicizing, called his castle Warwick House, but got in financial trouble and sold it for a Church of England boarding school in 1866. The school didn't flourish long, and Arthur W. Hepburn bought it for a private residence and named it Rickarton for estates in the old country.

Hepburn acquired the Bay of Quinte Steamboat Company from his father-in-law James S. McCuaig. McCuaig was sometimes called "Biggie": See his genteel and impressive portrait photo at p. 247 in Lunn, *The County*. He lived down the road a bit in a big house that later became the True Blue Orphanage, where Merland Park Motor Court now is.

Rickarton is just a pub now, its daintily designed interior painted shockingly with a lot of black, but it still stands rather impressively on a rise as you come into Picton along the Loyalist Parkway from the direction of the Glenora ferry. Though the house is shorn of some of its crenellations, the tower remains a landmark seen both from the road and from the water. Miraculously, the lovely Tudor gothic verandahs at the back remain (though with an extra level added) from which the Hepburns used to view their steamships plying the bay.

It remains to be seen whether the town of Picton will have the moral fibre to hold on to this highly important landmark if, as some suspect, the new developer-owner chooses to think of removing it.

With the recent renovations to the Merrill house, the North American Hotel, the Crystal Palace, and the Master Feeds-Stevenson block, and many other buildings both public and private, no one can fail to see that "heritage" renovation is a way to foster the individual character of a place and that Picton has plenty of people, both old-timers and newcomers, who continue to put a lot of effort into doing it.

Rodger C. Greig

THE RESTORATION OF
THE NORTH AMERICAN HOTEL
(HOTEL QUINTE)
303-309 MAIN STREET, PICTON

The old North American Hotel, situated at the top of the Town Hill, where Highway 49 and Highway 33 from Glenora converge to become Picton's Main Street commands an imposing location, no doubt once ideal to servicing the weary traveller.

The five-bay, three-storey, late Georgian structure was built in 1835 by Robert

Abercrombie, who as a carpenter and joiner may actually have been involved in its construction. In any case, the hands which formed the structure created a building of simple elegance. The thin hand-moulded red brick (1 7/8" across the stretcher face) was built out to form a corbelled cornice and carried up the gables to form parapets from which the chimneys rose with their likewise corbelled tops. The original windows were twelve lights over twelve and flanked a main entrance which featured an elliptical fanlight, sidelights and panelled jambs. This arch treatment, without the fanlights, was echoed at the tavern door. Ground storey window openings had rowlock arches. Perhaps most visually significant was the presence of a two-storey verandah, with turned baluster balustrade and moulded columns.

However, by the time I was asked to look at the building in 1989, the verandah had long since gone, as had the corbelled chimney tops and the graceful arches over the ground storey entrances. The ground storey was cased in angelstone, the window openings had given up their Palladian proportions to increase display area and the roof and gutters were leaking badly causing in turn the spalling of that early brickwork. In short, it had gone the way of many a once-fine 19th century hotel turned retail and apartments.

The owner of the building had become aware of the Commercial Rehabilitation Grants offered by the Ministry of Culture and Communications toward the appropriate restoration of designated heritage commercial buildings (which this was).

In planning the restoration of the building, we were greatly aided by an 1869 coloured rendering of the building, and c.

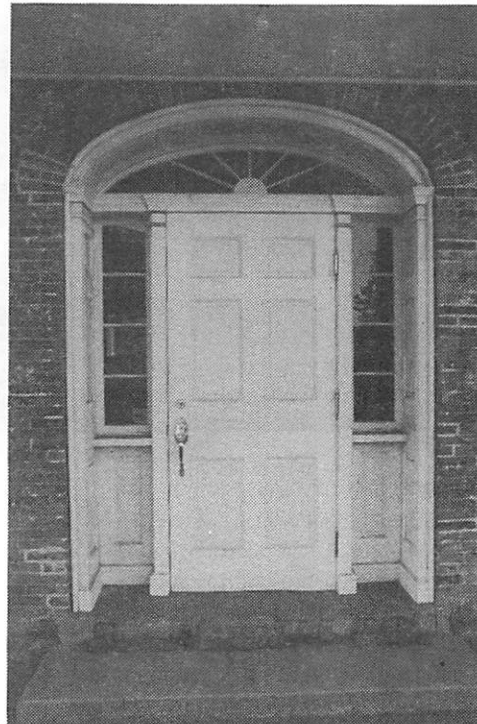


North American Hotel, Picton
before renovations

ANDRÉ SCHEINMAN

1890 and c. 1910 photographs which, between them, showed with reasonable clarity the evolution of the structure. The photographs both were taken during Main Street parades, such documentation being much more rare for less prominent structures. Through the graphic documentation the changes to windows could be reasonably dated, the configuration of the main openings became known as well as the fine detail such as pilasters at the main entrance architrave, and the treatment of the verandah cornice, columns and balustrade. The 1869 coloured rendering also showed that the brick had already been painted by that time, no surprise given its relative softness.

Though initially there was a desire to restore the building to its earliest period, it was finally decided to restore to the c. 1890 period, the date of most of the existing historic fabric, notably the two over two window sash still in place at the upper storeys.



ANDRÉ SCHEINMAN

Door detail — North American Hotel, Picton

With a grant from MCC we were able to develop contract documents for the conservation/restoration project. At this stage the concern over what lay behind the angelstone, the condition of the masonry, the possibility of concealed original detailing led to its removal. We were relatively lucky in that the angelstone had been tied to the brick facade with only nails in the mortar joints. Though significant damage had been done it was much less than by other methods of attachment. Furthermore, boarding in the area of the elliptical fanlights became evident as did the deep panelled jambs, still in place.

The removal of the boarding revealed, as hoped, the panelled arched head jamb. Finding these details entailed some revisions to the drawings to ensure "fit" between the original and the reconstructed elements.

Masonry cleaning began, following approved test panels, utilizing a methylene chloride based paint stripper and low pressure rinses. The object here was not to get down to perfectly bare brick but rather to clean off excessive paint layering (the most recent of which had not adhered properly due to intercoat incompatibility) and to reveal the full extent of masonry repairs and repointing required. The brick had been painted since 1869 and it is therefore quite appropriate to repaint it. As well, cleaning to "perfect" clean would have undoubtedly caused damage to this very soft brick.

Masonry repair and repointing entailed special challenges. The early narrow brick was very difficult to match, and could only be found in small quantities. The mortar was specified to be particularly lime-rich as was appropriate to work with the soft brick. The elliptical brick arches had to be extensively repaired and new rowlock arches created for the restored ground storey window openings. A modern entrance opening created for one of the commercial tenants out of an original window was retained for functional purposes but detailed with a rectangular transom and panel and glazed door (as is typical except for the six panel main door). The chimney stacks had to be rebuilt and were once again topped with the corbelled detail which is a small but significant aspect of the building's charm.

The verandah detailing was developed from the graphic documentation, from the motifs provided by the interior stair rail and balustrade and gone over on site comprehensively with the carpenter and mill-worker. So, too, the entrance treatments required the repair of the existing and reinstatement of elements which had been lost over this century.

A three-storey hipped roof addition had been added to the building by 1869 and seems to have been a carriage shed with rooms above. The large shed opening had been filled simply with planks upon which the angelstone was applied. As part of the project a "new" period storefront echoing motifs from the verandah detailing was created to have the whole front elevation "work" harmoniously. Naturally, this aspect was not fundable through the Ministry grant though approved by them as an appropriate treatment.

Roofing in cedar shingles is largely complete, but the roofers have not executed

the "Boston" hips properly and these will have to be redone. The all important new sheet metal work (flashings, gutters, parapet copings) also is still to be completed.

Come good weather these items, along with maintenance masonry work to the rear of the building and painting the building in its historic paint colours, will complete the project. We would like to think that along with the restoration of the Master Feeds Building (Stevenson Block c. 1835) and other downtown restoration initiatives, it adds up to the rejuvenation of a particularly fine Ontario Main Street.

André Scheinman
Heritage Preservation Consultant



North American Hotel, Picton
Renovations almost complete

ANDRÉ SCHEINMAN

Port Hope

HERITAGE FUND

Sooner or later every heritage group ought to put its money where its mouth is. Not only should we be promoting the cause of preservation through slide shows and walking tours, we ought to be able to lend financial assistance to property owners faced with the inherently high cost of restoration. That's why the Port Hope Branch is pleased to announce that for the third year running, its Heritage Fund is available to qualified homeowners.

The Heritage Fund, established with the assistance of the Ministry of Culture and Communications, now hovers around \$90,000 and each year a portion of it can be allocated to deserving restoration projects. Any owner of a designated building can apply for assistance, which includes a small grant and a larger low-interest loan. The amount varies on the number of applications received, and of course, on the means of the applicant — each property is assessed on a case-by-case basis. And yes, the money can be used in conjunction with funds from other programmes, notably Designated Property Grants from the Ministry.

So far, three local houses have benefited from our Heritage Fund and we expect more and more applications as the fund becomes better known. We're proud to be able to demonstrate our commitment to Port Hope's heritage with more than just moral support.



William Street house brick work restoration was partly funded by Port Hope Heritage Fund

HOUSE TOUR — SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 29, 1990

Plans are all set for the 1990 version of our most special occasion; the House Tour. Always a sell-out event, it never fails to attract visitors from all around the province. This year we present a full roster of homes in a variety of styles — from a diminutive Ontario cottage to an opulent Second Empire Victorian. And for those of you on last year's tour who expressed skepticism at the "before" view of 94 John Street (more than one visitor was heard to sigh, "My, but this place will need a lot of work!"), you'll be amazed by the newly completed "after" view on this year's tour.

An we've added an extra twist; a street tour. Part of Baldwin Street in the "Englishtown" neighbourhood will be closed to traffic so that visitors will be able to get an even better appreciation for this charming streetscape replete with any number of well-preserved houses.

Proceeds from the event, which is always held the Saturday before Thanksgiving weekend, are added to our Heritage Fund (see item above). Tickets are \$12 each, available from Smith Creek Antiques, 27 Walton St., Port Hope, Ontario L1A 1M8. Better still, reserve your tickets now by phone by calling (416) 885-7840.

WESLEYVILLE CHURCH

The little country church at Wesleyville (west of Port Hope on the shore of Lake Ontario) has been the subject of some controversy in recent months. It has stood vacant for some 20 years and its fate has been in limbo ever since. Local preservationists, of course, want to see the building maintained and put to use; others haven't been sympathetic to conservation, pointing to maintenance costs as a good excuse to tear the building down. For a time there was even talk about salvaging a few bricks to serve as a memorial on the site.

Things came to a head when the local LACAC suggested designation. The debate eventually wound up in the hands of a Conservation Review Board hearing, which (thankfully) recommended the church indeed be designated.

Preservationists breathed a sigh of relief, but at this writing, the ultimate fate of the church is not certain.

Wesleyville Church has always been one of our favourites. It epitomizes the rural

TOM CRICKSHANK

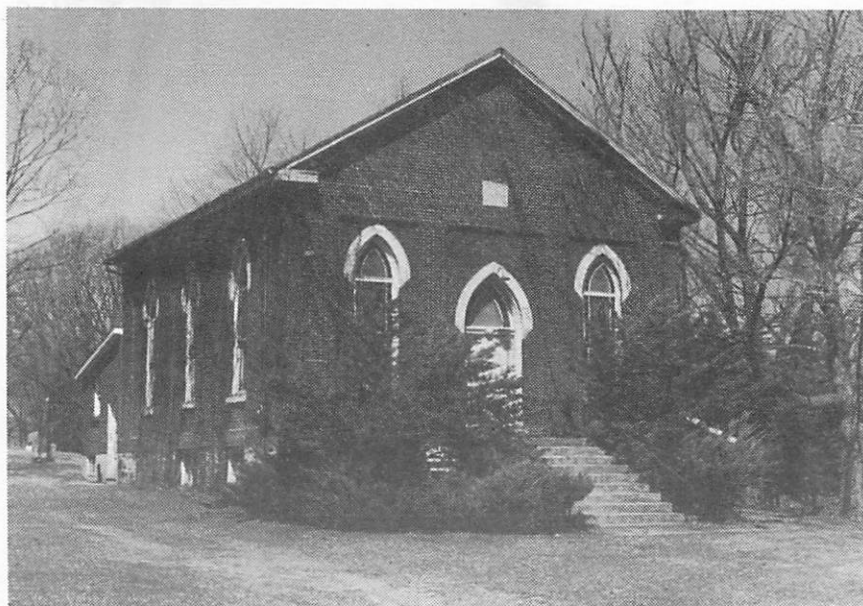
Gothic tradition with its pointed arches and simple detail. Panelled brickwork is of note, but its strongest suit is its tranquil setting, standing along a beautiful country drive only steps away from its companion one-room school. The Port Hope ACO has long been concerned over the future of the 1860 building, and hopes to assist restoration efforts through the Heritage Fund.

Tom Cruickshank



TOM CRUICKSHANK

Clemens Duplex c. 1875 part of which will be on the house tour



TOM CRUICKSHANK

Wesleyville Church 1860

Hamilton-Niagara Region

This Branch report will focus on the state of churches in the Hamilton-Niagara area, a subject which is particularly timely for several reasons.

In terms of architectural conservation activity, 1989 could be considered the "Year of the Church" for the City of Hamilton. The best news is that two of the city's most important churches, St. Paul's Presbyterian Church on James Street South and Christ's Church Cathedral on James Street North have largely completed major restoration projects. The worst is that St. Mark's Anglican Church at the corner of Bay Street South and Hunter Street was permanently closed and the Diocese announced its plans to redevelop the site for housing and church offices, demolishing all or much of the existing historic church.

In the Niagara area, a very special and happy event took place on April 5th in the former village of Stamford (now part of the City of Niagara Falls) when the Stamford Green Heritage Columbarium (former Old St. John's Church) was officially opened by the Lieutenant-Governor, His Honour Lincoln M. Alexander, and reconsecrated by the Archbishop of Niagara, The Most Reverend John C. Bothwell. The story of how this abandoned heritage church was eventually adapted to its new use as a columbarium is recounted in the following article. Suffice it to mention here that the restoration of this provincially significant church was formally recognized by the Hamilton-Niagara Branch of the ACO prior to its re-opening as a columbarium, when the project was selected for one of four Thomas B. McQuesten Awards presented in 1988 for the best examples of architectural conservation and rehabilitation in the region.

It is also worth mentioning that potential candidates for this year's McQuesten Awards include the two Hamilton churches referred to above. The ceremony is scheduled to take place at Whitehern.

FOR BETTER OR WORSE THE STATE OF CHURCHES IN THE HAMILTON-NIAGARA REGION

The gradual erosion of the church as an institution in Canadian society has had a noticeable impact on our communities in recent years. As pointed out in an article published in *Canadian Heritage* in 1987 (October/November): "Not since Henry VIII turned out the monks and handed England's monasteries over to his henchmen has there been a secularization of churches on such a

mass scale as in this century. Recent decades have seen thousands of buildings, once consecrated to God but now without a congregation, turned into community centres, auction halls, hairdressing salons, night clubs, restaurants, theatres, museums and even condominiums." With declining attendance and dwindling sources of revenue, combined with escalating maintenance and conservation costs, many congregations and parishes have been forced to permanently close their churches and sell the property. Some redundant churches, however, have met or await a fate worse than adaptive re-use: Demolition for redevelopment or even worse, a parking lot.

For those churches which will continue to serve as places of worship, the physical erosion of the buildings themselves, particularly the 19th century stone churches in our larger urban centres, has also become a serious problem in the last decade. The cumulative effect of pollution and acid rain has caused the stone masonry to deteriorate, sometimes to the point of becoming structurally unsound and requiring immediate attention. At this stage, the necessary conservation/restoration work is very costly and well beyond the internal resources of any single church body.

Fortunately, for properties designated under the Ontario Heritage Act, there is both municipal and provincial funding available for masonry conservation. Given this economic incentive, it is hardly surprising that an increasing number of congregations accommodated in historic stone or brick masonry structures are seeking designation. This trend is certainly one very encouraging outcome of the plight of our churches as designation not only provides economic benefits for the church body; it also gives the building itself some measure of protection from demolition or adverse alterations, thereby providing a cultural benefit to the community at large. Where the financial resources of the church body combined with government assistance have been insufficient to meet renovation or restoration costs, some congregations have resorted to public fund-raising campaigns or, where feasible, have opted to sever and sell portions of the church property.

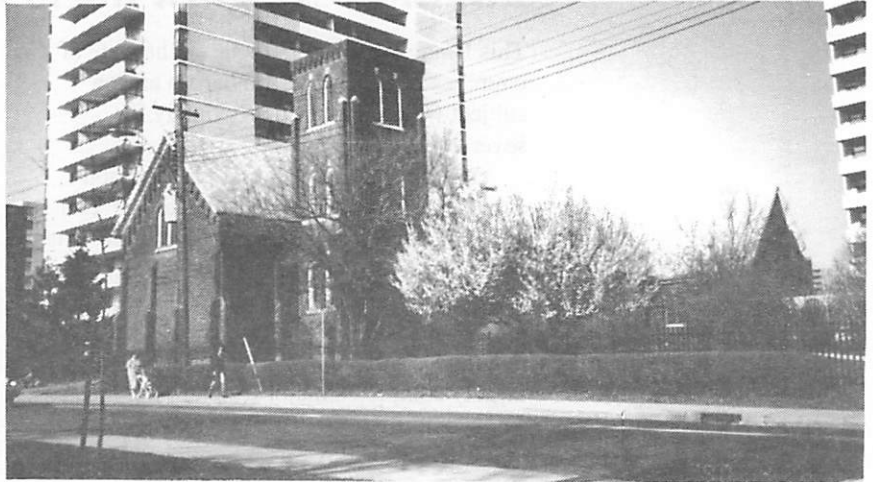
The remainder of this article will examine these trends in more detail, looking at the particular problems which have confronted or currently face selected churches in the Hamilton-Niagara Region and the solutions which have been found or proposed.

St. Mark's Anglican Church

First to be considered is one Hamilton church which illustrates the most negative trend: Closure which may be followed by total or partial demolition. Recently closed, St. Mark's Anglican Church at the southwest corner of Bay and Hunter Streets in downtown Hamilton has been standing under threat of demolition since 1988 when the Anglican Diocese of Niagara announced its plans to disestablish the parish (whose aging congregation had shrunk to less than thirty), demolish the building and redevelop the site for non-profit housing and diocesan offices. While the building itself, an L-shaped brick structure comprising the original 1878 church and 1925 tower and Sunday School additions, does not rank among the city's most architecturally distinguished churches, its human scale and attractively landscaped grounds enclosed on two sides by the walls of the church offer a welcome contrast to the surrounding high-rise apartments. The building together with its open green space constitutes a valuable community asset which should be preserved.

The proposed redevelopment scheme, which requires a zoning change to allow for the office use and the much higher density than is currently permitted under the City of Hamilton's Zoning By-Law, has met strong opposition from LACAC, the Durand Neighbourhood Association and a number of private citizens, with the result that some revisions to the initial scheme have been made. The latest set of plans prepared by the architect, Trevor Garwood-Jones, shows a 10-storey residential/office tower built on the site of the Sunday School with a portion of the original church preserved for use as a chapel. City Council, acting upon the recommendation of the Planning Department, however, turned down the zoning application and the St. Mark's Non-Profit Housing Corporation has since launched an appeal to the Ontario Municipal Board which is scheduled for a hearing this spring.

Under the circumstances, the best possible solution, from an architectural conservation standpoint, would be for the Diocese to preserve the entire church complex, converting it to church offices and a chapel, and find another more suitable site for its non-profit housing project. A second alternative currently being investigated is for the City of Hamilton to purchase the property to serve a cultural or recreational use that could be readily accommodated within the existing building, thereby retaining the architectural integrity of its exterior and the open green space.

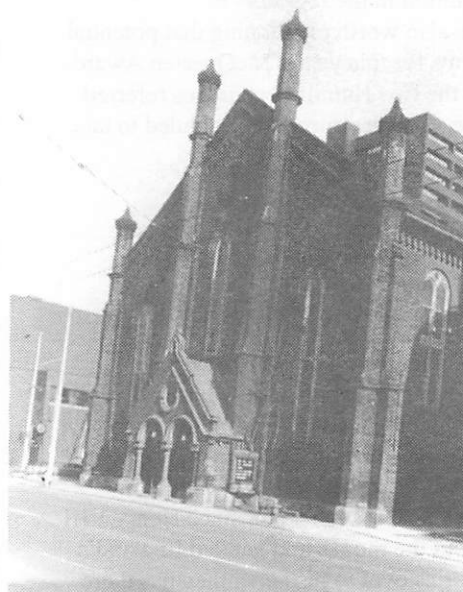


St. Mark's Anglican Church,
Hamilton

ANN GILLESPIE

Centenary United Church

Another church whose fate has yet to be determined, but which recently faced possible closure is Hamilton's historic Centenary United Church on Main Street just west of James. The Board of Trustees has given serious consideration to selling this property, which comprises the original Romanesque Revival church erected in 1868 (the oldest United Church in the downtown core) and its 1894 Sunday School. With its key location in the Central Business District, the Centenary property constitutes prime real estate. In fact, last fall the Royal Bank offered the Board \$5 million, with the intention of demolishing the church buildings to provide access and visibility for its new tower to be erected on the site of its present building and the former Robinson's Department Store on James Street facing Gore Park. A motion passed by the



Centenary United Church, Hamilton

ANN GILLESPIE

congregation in February of this year that "no change of ownership of all or part of Centenary is presently contemplated", however, has allayed fears of imminent closure and demolition. Nevertheless, offers like the Royal Bank's may just be too great a temptation for our economically burdened churches to resist.

James Street Baptist Church

A strategy for survival adopted by some large urban churches is to undertake major and very costly renovations to boost church attendance and provide better community services by updating their image and facilities, in the hope of gaining long-term economic benefits. Unfortunately, these objectives are often met by sacrificing some of the building's most significant architectural features. James Street Baptist Church at 96 James Street South in Hamilton is a case in point. This stone Gothic Revival church, built in 1878-82, is the only major Protestant church to have been designed by the well-known architect Joseph Connolly, responsible for the design of a number of Roman Catholic churches throughout the province. An extensive renovation project, "The Leap of the Century", was initially estimated to cost around \$1.8 million but costs soared to over \$2.3 million when serious structural problems with the stone masonry walls were discovered. The now completed interior renovations resulted in the removal of the original carved wooden entrance doors and stone steps as well as much of the impressive interior woodwork, including the tiered choir stalls, carved balcony railing, and double staircase in the entrance vestibule. The church's new "open door" policy is visibly expressed in its new street-level entrance doorway featuring bronze and tempered glass doors and transom.

The "renewed" James Street Baptist Church was officially rededicated last May. The exterior of the building has since been designated under the Ontario Heritage Act, at the request of the church trustees, in order to gain access to heritage funding programs. However, most of the eligible conservation work had been completed before the designation by-law was passed in January 1990 and the church was therefore unable to obtain provincial funding. The church has now incurred a massive debt of more than \$2.1 million and has just applied for a loan of \$50,000 from the City's Community Heritage Fund and a Designated Property Grant of \$3000 to help pay for the costly stone masonry conservation work.

Four of Hamilton's six designated churches have applied for, or have already

received, provincial funding for such conservation work as the replacement of slate roofing and stone masonry repairs and restoration. In 1986, two of Hamilton's most important churches, Christ's Church Cathedral and St. Paul's Presbyterian Church, were each found to be in a structurally dangerous condition. Fortunately, the most serious problems have now been rectified thanks to the commitment of the respective congregations to the restoration of their buildings and to outside sources of funding.

Christ's Church Cathedral

Christ's Church Cathedral, a prominent landmark on James Street North designed by one of Canada's leading 19th century architects, William Thomas, was built in two stages, 1852 (east end) and 1872-5 (front facade and west end). It stood in ostensibly good condition until New Year's Day, 1986, when a potential disaster was narrowly averted on the occasion of the church's 150th anniversary celebrations. About an hour after the 800 people gathered in the church had left, one of the pinnacles over the front entrance fractured, sending about 500 pounds of stonework smashing onto the stone steps. This frightening incident prompted the church to hire an expert in stone masonry conservation, Toronto architect Spencer Higgins, to diagnose its cause. It was found that over time, acid rain, pollution and water damage had eroded the stonework and dissolved the mortar. As a result, the church was faced with extensive repairs to the badly decayed stone masonry, originally estimated to cost \$1.4 million, but subsequently pushed to \$1.8 million when further investigation revealed the deterioration of the foundations to be worse than expected. Although the structural soundness of the building has now been restored, the extra cost of this masonry work has forced the postponement of a number of other improvements, estimated to cost \$600,000.

St. Paul's Presbyterian Church

Another of Hamilton's outstanding architectural monuments, St. Paul's Presbyterian Church on James Street South, had over the course of time developed structural problems of an equal if not great magnitude to Christ's Church Cathedral. Built in 1854-7 and also designed by William Thomas, this church is a masterpiece of Gothic Revival detailing and an outstanding example of local stone masonry construction. Moreover, it is the only church in the province with a spire constructed of stone. When fragments of this 180-foot spire began



St. Paul's Presbyterian Church

to fall in 1986, two of the country's leading masonry conservation experts, Martin Weaver and engineer Paul Stumes, were hired to assess its structural condition. When their report was released, following an inspection made in September 1987, the congregation was shocked to learn that the stone spire might collapse in the event of even a moderate earth tremor and there existed a grave risk of large pieces of stone masonry falling from considerable heights and killing persons inside or outside the church. Mr. Weaver described the spire's condition as a "spectacular piece of erosion" caused primarily by air pollution but compounded by an unfortunate error made in masonry repairs to its tip following the earthquake of 1944. The original sandstone tip was replaced at that time by one made of Indiana limestone, a material which is incompatible with sandstone.

Confronted with an estimated cost of \$1.8 million to restore the spire, St. Paul's Restoration Committee considered several alternatives which included taking it down, replacing it with a new metal spire, or completely rebuilding it with new stone before opting for the preferred but most expensive solution: To restore the original spire, reinforcing it internally with a steel

corset and carrying out localized stone conservation and limited replacement of stones. This project, undertaken by Belair Restoration Inc. and supervised by Toronto architect Alan Seymour, is now virtually complete. The spire was officially rededicated last November.

In recognition of the national importance of this church, the Province of Ontario has awarded a grant of up to \$600,000 for the restoration of the spire and other conservation work. The congregation will have raised about \$900,000 with an additional \$500,000 being taken from St. Paul's capital fund. Unfortunately, the church is still short of funds: only \$128,000 of the budgeted \$400,000 to come from outside donors has so far been raised. However, the church is still hopeful that donations will continue to be made to St. Paul's Church Heritage Spire Fund.

St. John's Anglican Church

One church parish which hopes to finance a major restoration and construction project without resorting to public fund-raising is St. John's Anglican Church on Wilson Street in Ancaster. Built in 1868-9 and designed by Toronto architects, Henry Langley and Thomas Gundry, this small but distinguished stone Gothic Revival church with a tall central square tower is a prominent landmark whose presence is enhanced by an attractive woodland setting. The church property comprises a substantial parcel of land which includes a wooded cemetery surrounding the church on three sides and behind the cemetery a woodlot where the parish hall and stone rectory are located. The parish council has, however, decided to sever and sell the 3.8 acre woodlot, excluding the rectory property. A condition of sale will restrict the subdivision of this land into a maximum of eleven house lots. The generous size of the lots should allow the retention of a sufficient number of mature trees to at least partially preserve the church's wooded backdrop.

It was anticipated that this land sale would raise about \$1.5 million, an amount sufficient to finance the restoration of the existing church and the construction of a new adjoining parish hall which will better accommodate the needs of St. John's large and still growing congregation (a direct result of Ancaster's dramatic population growth in recent years). Given the current state of the housing market, however, the parish council has wisely decided not to proceed immediately with the sale of the woodlot and construction of the new parish hall. Instead (and this is indeed good news!), it will seek to have the church designated in order to gain

access to sources of heritage funding. Urgent conservation work involving structural repairs to the roof and top of the tower is expected to cost about \$300,000, with additional work estimated at \$600,000.



St. John's Anglican Church, Ancaster

ANN GILLESPIE

Church of St. John the Evangelist

The case of a congregation outgrowing its building, though rare today, was certainly common back in the 1950s. In fact, the problem of the redundant church first emerged, not because of a decline in church attendance, but because of the need for more space to accommodate larger congregations. Historic churches replaced by new larger ones were all too often left standing empty or demolished. The original Church of St. John the Evangelist in Stamford Village (now incorporated into the City of Niagara Falls), for example, was permanently closed and deconsecrated in 1962 following the construction in 1957 of a new church on the site of the adjacent rectory. The curiously befitting conversion of the old St. John's into a columbarium, that is, a storage facility for cinerary urns, is probably the most innovative adaptive re-use scheme for a redundant church yet to be implemented in the Hamilton-Niagara area. It is certainly one with a fascinating history worth recounting in some detail.

Built in 1825, this stuccoed rubblestone Gothic Revival church, of a similar design to the original St. John's in Ancaster, is the oldest surviving Anglican Church in the Niagara area and one of the oldest in the province. Following its closure, the pulpit, altar, reredos and communion rail were removed and donated to Upper Canada Village for installation in the restored Christ Church, while the pews and some stained

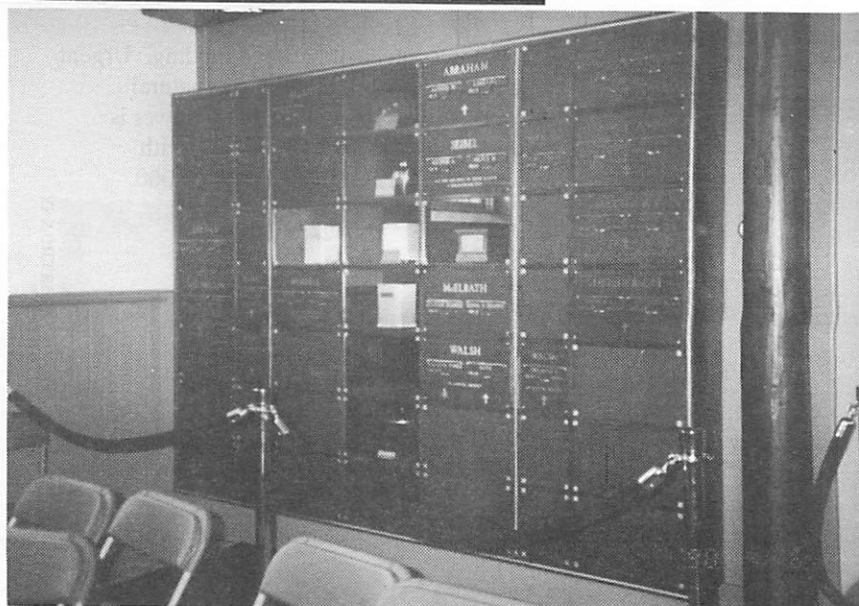
glass (including a panel depicting the figure of St. John the Evangelist) were installed in the memorial chapel of the new church. Left with the empty shell, the parish council very nearly passed a resolution to demolish the structure but instead decided to lease it to a local historical society for storage purposes, a rather ignoble use for such an historic church, and one which certainly did not help to conserve the building in any way. Without proper maintenance, its physical condition continued to deteriorate to the point that in 1974 one of the roof trusses collapsed and the church had to be vacated.

A Committee of three was then formed to investigate possible uses and the feasibility of rehabilitating the structure. This Committee was replaced in 1976 by a larger group called the Old St. John's Stamford Heritage Association with a board of twelve directors. The group's initial efforts to obtain funding from the Ontario Heritage Foundation did not get off to a good start, their initial application being rejected on the grounds that no funding was available at the time for the conservation of church buildings serving as places of worship and no viable alternative use had been found. Some positive steps in the right direction were, however, made in 1977 when the church was designated under the Ontario Heritage Act (one of the first buildings to be designated in the City of Niagara Falls) and in November of 1978 when the parish council agreed to sell it to the Old St. John's Stamford Heritage Association for the sum of \$1.00.

After rejecting a proposal to convert the church into an interpretive museum, the Ontario Heritage Foundation did agree to fund one-third of the \$21,000 needed to rebuild the roof, by then in danger of collapse; and in 1982, finally agreed to fund one-half the cost of a feasibility study, which was subsequently undertaken by Baird/Sampson Architects. Of the various uses proposed, including artists' studios, professional offices and a columbarium, the latter was considered to be the most viable, in that it would eventually be self-maintaining through a capital fund created by the sale of niches. Moreover, the church's cemetery setting provided an ideal location for a columbarium. At long last, the necessary funding was forthcoming: a grant of \$65,000 from the Ontario Heritage Foundation, a grant of \$75,000, from the province's Community Facilities Improvement Program, a federal grant of \$50,000 for labour, another \$50,000 from the City of Niagara Falls, as well as a number of foundation grants and many donations which together exceeded \$50,000.

The bulk of the restoration work was done between 1985 and 1987 by Shoalts Brothers Construction of Welland under the supervision of architects Baird/Sampson. After 15 years of persevering effort and dedicated hard work on the part of Old St. John's Stamford Heritage Association, the church was finally reopened in December of 1989, with one bank of niches to hold the urns (located on one side of the rear wall) completed and two rooms intended for historic displays of the Stamford area. At the time of the official reopening and re-consecration of the Stamford Green Heritage Columbarium on April 5th, 34 of the 49 niches had already been sold. The first bank of niches is a finely crafted piece of cabinetry executed in cherry wood with a combination of glass and bronze cover plates, which was made by several of the association's directors with cabinetmaking skills. The columbarium has already attracted considerable local attention and the demand for niches is such that the association's directors are already searching for a cabinetmaker to build a second bank. It is envisaged that, at least in the foreseeable future, the Old St. John's Stamford Heritage Association will retain ownership of the building, continue to be responsible for its upkeep, arrange for the construction of additional banks of niches as the need arises, and provide volunteers to keep it open to the public on a daily basis during the summer and by appointment the remainder of the year. The Superintendent of Cemeteries will, however, take over the operation of the columbarium, advertising and selling the niches and arranging for visits.

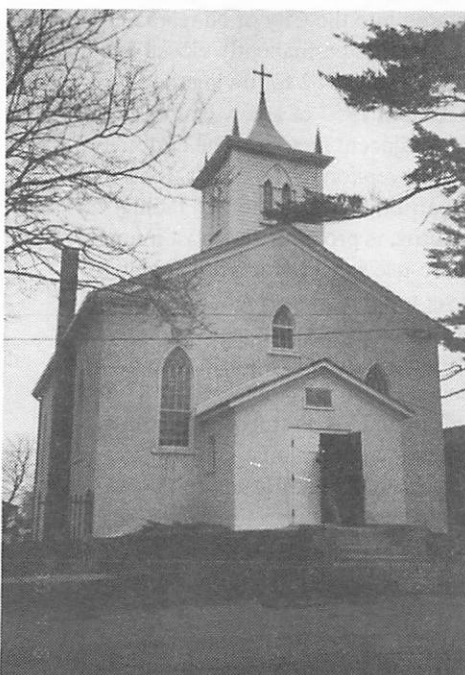
Looking at the overall state of churches in the province, as reflected by the previous examples in the Hamilton-Niagara area, it is evident that we can no longer take for granted our valuable heritage of church buildings. Many are outstanding works of architecture in their own right, recognized as provincially or even nationally significant; virtually all are local landmarks whose loss would diminish the visual character of our urban and rural landscapes. How to preserve our churches, either as places of worship or as buildings accommodating a variety of secular uses, has become a major concern for preservationists across the country and could become their greatest challenge in the years to come. It is now time for provincial and municipal governments, heritage organizations and foundations, community associations, business corporations, and concerned citizens to share the responsibility for preserving our church buildings, whatever their future use. In this province, the Ontario



Old St. John's Church, first bank of columbarium niches

Ministry of Culture and Communications and its agency, the Ontario Heritage Foundation, the ACO and its local branches, and LACACs and other local heritage organizations all have particularly important roles to play in providing the necessary technical and financial assistance to ease the continuing plight of our churches. The case of Old St. John's in Niagara Falls demonstrates admirably well just how much can be achieved through the collaborative efforts of heritage organizations, the various levels of government, and volunteer citizens with the commitment and energy to undertake such an ambitious project and see it through to a successful conclusion.

Ann Gillespie



Old St. John's Church, Niagara Falls

Brant County

ANNUAL MEETING

The annual meeting of the branch was held at the Thorpe Bros. Coach House, 96 West Street, Brantford on March 19, 1990. Over thirty members and adherents listened to a talk about the ACO and Architecture presented by Peter John Stokes, Restoration Architect from Niagara-on-the-Lake and a former ACO President.

Mr. Stokes talked about the beginnings of the Conservancy in 1933 with Eric Arthur, who was a teacher of Mr. Stokes, Anthony Adamson and others who pioneered the movement, even before the mass destruction began of older and heritage structures. He was asked a number of questions and commented on unsympathetic infill where large buildings dwarf retained facades which appear to be glued on in front.

Mr. Stokes was intrigued by Waterloo Court in Brantford, and regards 22 Nelson as an outstanding local property.

Mr. Stokes told of his involvement in writing "Rogues Hollow". He mentioned the way membership money is spent . . . including office, secretary, and supplies. He spoke of the Heritage Fund which is now available for eligible projects on a loan basis. He compared the out-of-scale infill areas in Toronto with more successful ones in Port Hope, where downtown infill has been kept to scale. In regard to the Conservancy, Mr. Stokes spoke about the formation of the eleven branches, some large, some small, all doing their best to promote architectural preservation.

The branch executive was elected and Marion Sheridan became president. Other members of the executive include past-president Alan Scott, vice-president Michael O'Byrne and secretary Cheryll Wood. Directors include Steve Money, Cathy Shak, Dave Dinsmore, Ron Kusch, Irmgard Jamnik and Clayton Barker.

Donald Pettitt presented an award for the preservation and upkeep of an Heritage Property to the Koustaal family of Burford. Mr. Stokes was presented with a gift of "Collector Cards" by Donald Pettitt, on behalf of the Branch. There are now twelve series of cards available depicting older areas of the city and the county. The demolished structures series are especially popular. The Conservancy office handles the sale of the cards.

Audrey Scott

EDITORIAL

Your editor, having rejoined the Brantford Heritage Committee (LACAC) after a hiatus of three years, has nominated a few local buildings to be considered for possible designation. One of these is a gas station dating, probably, from about 1930. It is right in the downtown core at the corner of Colborne and Charlotte Streets. It is of the "cottage" type, not uncommon among the service stations of that era. There used to be thousands, but the petroleum companies, trying to keep abreast of competition, have replaced or remodeled them to the point that an old one is rarely seen. The building was last occupied by a used car dealer, but has been empty now for several years.

Nevertheless it appears to be structurally sound. Of course, we all know that the greatest threat to heritage conservation is underutilization. An underutilized building costs taxes and routine maintenance, not to mention tied up capital. When there is not a profitable use for it, maintenance is postponed and eventually demolition solves that problem. Are there any readers of ACORN able to suggest alternative uses for an old gas station? We would like to see it survive and be restored to its one time bright appearance, but we know that only an economically advantageous use will make that possible.



291 Erie Street

Another category that one seldom hears about is our handful of tin-front houses. On East Avenue, we have two, a single at number 32 and a double at number 34-36. On Murray Street there is at least one. The material seems to be very much like the old-fashioned metal ceilings that used to be fairly common in stores. Our tin fronts are disappearing, being replaced with aluminum or vinyl siding. It would be nice to get protection under the Heritage Act for the few that we have left. They are not commonly seen. A similar material is used locally in a

couple of houses for the visible face of bell-cast eave projections. Other readers of ACORN might be interested in looking at this relatively rare type of cladding as at 291 Erie Avenue and exchanging ideas and comments.

Last, we have nominated a proud looking Georgian house at the corner of Murray and Nelson Streets. It is of brick with stone window surrounds. The proportions and scale render this a handsome house. One might even say saucy. It is joined on the west to a much later Victorian house. The two halves, Georgian and Victorian, form a nice contrast and complement each other well.

Michael Keefe

UPDATE: ST. BASIL'S CATHOLIC HERITAGE BLOCK

The last material submitted to ACORN on this project envisioned the conversion of the former St. Joseph's Convent and the former St. Basil's School into housing. The funding was to come from the Homes Now program of the Ontario Government. The housing was to be mixed, with one, two, and three-bedroom apartments, some with handicapped accessibility. The mix would be primarily assisted rents, but with about twenty per cent market value. The main target group was to be single-parent led families.

Two factors have since appeared. These have substantially altered the project. The two buildings concerned initially are legally the property of the Roman Catholic Corporation of the Diocese of Hamilton. Adjacent to them is the former St. Ann's School, title to which rests with the Brant County Roman Catholic Separate School Board.

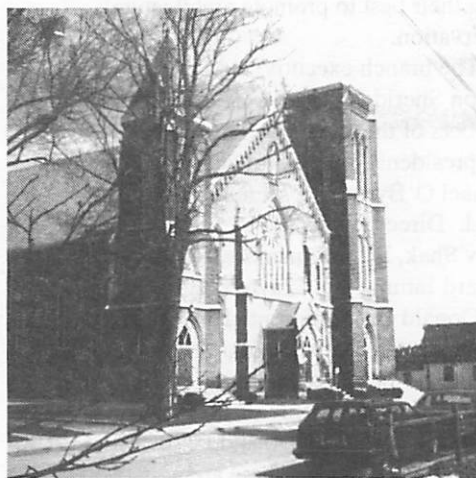
Before any official application was made to the City's Committee of the Whole: Planning, it became apparent that the City's planning staff was going to recommend against the project because of perceived inadequate parking. At about the same time, the Separate School Board let it be known that they, as an abutting property owner, would not oppose the project, provided that

the St. Ann's building be taken off their hands by the Diocese. Of course, the sum of this was that the project as it was envisioned at that time would be opposed by the City's planning staff (parking) and possibly by the Separate School Board, as well as by neighbours.

The committee developing the project moved to a different proposal. St. Ann's would be acquired through a negotiated deal between the Diocese and the Separate School Board. Housing would be provided in the two former schools, a total of thirty-five apartments. The former convent would be demolished and the land used for parking and amenity space. This is the proposal as it now stands. The advantage of the new proposal is that it has the support of the City's planning staff, of the Ontario Ministry of Housing, and of the Separate School Board.

The politicians decided on May 7, to go ahead with the project despite opposition from the neighbours and the parishioners. The local ACO and the Advisory Board abstained from support for St. Basil's development project, unless the Madonna Centre were retained. It now appears certain that the proposal will go to the Ontario Municipal Board. The advocates feel that the OMB will decide in favour of the project, since it provides assisted housing and meets all planning criteria.

The negative aspect is that one of the buildings with an important historical antecedent on the site will be demolished, leaving a gap-tooth effect to challenge the architect.



St. Basil's Church

If the project were to be abandoned, the three buildings would stay in place for the immediate future. However, alternate uses and funding would need to be found to avoid more deterioration. An earlier scheme would have seen the loss of all the buildings and their replacement with a medium rise

AUDREY SCOTT

building having an open main level to provide parking. On May 22, City Council rectified the decision of the Committee of the Whole: Planning to go ahead with the St. Basil's Development Project in spite of a well researched and reasoned presentation, regarding the parking made by Paul Vandervet and documented by Audrey Scott.

Michael Keefe
Audrey Scott

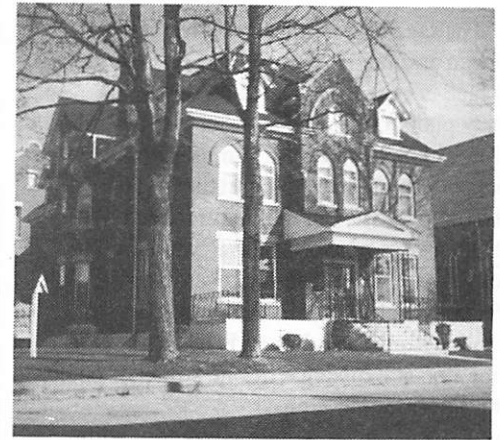
SAINT BASIL (BRANTFORD) COMMUNITY HOMES INC.

Late in 1988, as the result of an open appeal in the church bulletin, a steering committee was established to investigate the possibility of providing low-cost housing to the needy families of Brantford. This grew out of the vision of our Lord, as expressed in Matthew: 25; 35-46. The most obvious method to do this was to use the old St. Basil's School and the Madonna Centre, which had fallen into disrepair and would surely disintegrate further unless something was done with them. Since then, many things have been accomplished:

- *ongoing contact has been maintained with the Diocese, and the Housing Project has the full support of the Bishop;*
- *Waterloo-Wellington Non-Profit Homes Inc. was hired as project co-ordinator;*
- *an allocation of 30 units was set aside for us by the Ministry of Housing under the Homes Now programme, which will provide the funding for the project;*
- *the firm of Howard Snodgrass Consulting Services Inc. was retained as planning consultant;*
- *the firm of Fryett, Shifflett Associates of Guelph was retained as architects;*
- *the architect inspected St. Basil's School and the Madonna Centre, and prepared a feasibility study comparing the merits of recycling the buildings or demolishing them; the committee voted to recycle them;*
- *the steering committee, together with its consultants, presented the plans to an open meeting for parishioners on July 10, 1989, and one for the neighbours of the parish on August 23, 1989;*

- *in response to concerns about noise in proximity to the church, changes have been made to the plan to provide baffles, etc., to minimize the noise;*
- *the steering committee has been incorporated, providing protection for the parish, in that the corporation is separate from St. Basil's Parish;*
- *at the Pastoral Council meeting of October 11, 1989, the members of the council expressed their continued support for and approval of the housing project;*
- *the possibility of renovations to the parish hall has been discussed but will be explored further with additional input from the parish.*

This month, we will be applying to City Council for the required amendments to the official plan and the zoning by-law. At this time, we ask for your prayers and continued support for this badly needed project. We will continue to keep you advised as to our progress.



St. Basil's Rectory

AUDREY SCOTT

SAINT BASIL'S ROMAN CATHOLIC INSTITUTIONAL BLOCK

The Brantford block bounded by Palace Street, Pearl Street, Richmond Street and Crown Street can be described as a Catholic Institutional Block. The entire assemblage has architectural and historic merit greater than the sum of its individual buildings. Construction of the buildings spans the better part of a century, from the present church building, begun in 1866, through St. Basil's School and St. Joseph's Convent in 1910, the rectory, sometime in the period 1911-1922,

St. Ann's School, 1923, and the hall, built in relatively recent years to serve as a gymnasium for the two schools.

The remainder of this description will be limited to the two 1910 buildings.

St. Basil's Separate School/Theatre Brantford

St. Basil's School has a neatly balanced façade as viewed from the Pearl Street Front. The style might be called eclectic, but an alternative term might be "North American Urban School First Quarter of the Twentieth Century". It has elements of Roman and country barn, of Baroque and Tudor.

None of the constituent elements, however, is overdone. All components have been put together in such a way as to produce a tasteful whole.

From the Pearl Street side one sees two floors. Each has one classroom on either side of a projecting front mini-tower. Each of these four classrooms has a bank of five windows with sandstone surround in the Tudor manner. The sills and heads are tied together between windows by four sandstone mullions, consistent with Tudor Collegiate styling.

The face of the building is red brick. One can assume from the lack of headers that this face is veneer. Most of the brick is starkly plain, but over the main entrance, the plainness is relieved by a simple Roman cross pattern made up of stretchers. Below this Roman cross, the main entrance is through a well-proportioned Roman arch in brick. A simple sandstone keystone, slightly corbelled, caps the arch. From this keystone, corbelled sandstone descends in arcs to the spring line at a distance of one stretcher back from the structural arch.

Above this cross, is a double window with sandstone Tudor surround, surmounted by a recessed panel with the words "St. Basil's Separate School" in Old English letters in low relief. Above all this is a Baroque type pediment with sandstone cap with three ball finials.

The roof is slate in reasonably good condition. It is a gable roof, with the gable ends projecting above the roof in the manner of old Amsterdam. These gable ends are surmounted by sandstone with a bit of Baroque detailing at the peaks. The centre of the roof has a small octagonal tower, reminiscent of country barn, which serves to vent the attic area. At its top is a simple cross.

The rest of the building is similar but simpler. The classical balance of the front is abandoned in favour of what a walk around the building reveals to be an "L" shaped plan. The brickwork and the stonework are in

superb condition, there being only one cracked stone lintel and a few spalled bricks. Virtually no pointing and only minor cleaning would be needed to restore the exterior to pristine appearance, except that the woodwork around the doors is shabby, tastelessly painted, and should probably be replaced. The cornerstone says 1910.

AUDREY SCOTT



The Madonna Centre

St. Joseph's Convent/ Madonna Centre

The convent has little to remove it from "Catholic Institutional Style". It is a three-storey building, apparently balanced, as viewed from the Pearl Street side. Lines are straight and angles are ninety degrees for all of the lower two floors.

On the front, there are two planes, the main building line and a projecting bay containing two windows on either side, repeated for the second floor. At the third floor, these become gable ends with a small Gothic arched window in each. Each of



MICHAEL KEEFE

St. Basil's School

these windows is divided, rather typically, into two smaller pointed arch openings with a circular window divided in quatrefoil pattern at the apex between them. Above the entrance at the third floor level, is a dormer with some Gothic detailing. This dormer is topped by a simple cross.

The roof portion of an early porch remains, with some neat detail. One time columns have been replaced with inappropriate wrought iron, while the present floor and steps are best not mentioned. It would be fitting to build a new porch based on old photographs under the present roof.

Window sills on the lower two floors are precast concrete painted gray. Lintels on the front and one side are of the same material, but on the other side and a back wing, the heads are of brick in what appears to be a functional segmental arch.

St. Ann's Separate School

St. Ann's, built in 1923, is very similar to St. Basil's in many respects, but, quiet interestingly, has some different features. Perhaps these differences are a reflection of the dozen years between the construction of the two. At least, insofar as decorative detailing is concerned, where one of these two schools uses rounded design elements, the other tends to use squared elements, and vice versa.

St. Basil's presents a rounded arched opening for the main entrance. St. Ann's is squared (although St. Ann's has a rounded wooden arched canopy above). But more of the details below.

St. Ann's is set higher above grade than any of the other buildings in the block, giving an appreciable amount of light to the entire

basement level. It has four classrooms visible from the street, one at each of two floors on each side. The four classrooms are in the same plane while the centre entrance is projected. The main exterior material is red clay brick with no headers showing.

The main entrance is quite elaborate. There are four steps of sandstone on the outside. The doorway itself is recessed to about the plane of the classroom walls. Flanking the recessed entry are sandstone veneer corners, the fronts of which have pilasters rising twelve or more feet. The pilasters are three quarters projected, somewhat similar to Tuscan columns, complete with an exaggerated entasis, but lacking the requisite scroll capitals. Instead, the capitals have a simplicity more associated with the Doric order. Above the pilasters are corbelled projecting brackets, still in sandstone. They are of somewhat whimsical design, if "whimsical" can be used to describe what is perhaps a bit too heavy. The front faces are of an unrolled scroll (the Ionic capital reborn?). The sides of these projections show five fairly heavy designs like stylized cobras. Above all this is a form of squared capital which serves no purpose except to hold the previously mentioned light wooden arched canopy. Farther up the wall is a niche containing a statue of St. Ann with the Virgin Mary as a little girl. Just above the doorway itself, and between the elaborate brackets, is a panel with the incised words ST ANN'S SEPARATE SCHOOL. Above the name panel and within the wooden arched canopy is an economy arched window. This window is of plain clear glass. The muntins are horizontal and vertical making no attempt to conform to the arched shape of the masonry opening.

Where the top of the projecting entrance tower on St. Basil's shows Baroque elements in its reversing curves, St. Ann's has a simple stone parapet cap rising at about forty-five degrees. At the point is a decrepit wooden cross. Was there once a stone one which fell down? The sides of the front entrance tower have two integral buttresses whose function is purely decorative.

Like St. Basil's, each group of classroom windows is in a band of five. But while those on St. Basil's have complete stone surrounds including even stone mullions, those on St. Ann's have stone only on the sills, with brick heads and jambs and no masonry at the mullions.

There are two bands of sandstone, however, each about three bricks high, one at grade and the other at the level of the first floor.



St. Ann's School

MICHAEL KEEFE

The roof in general repeats the gabled form found on St. Basil's, with similar parapet projections capped with stone. St. Ann's does not have the cupola found on St. Basil's. The finish is of slate which is visually in good condition.

Each of the two side walls has a large rectangular panel fifteen bricks wide by eighty-four bricks high (about six feet by twenty feet). Within this is a relatively small stone cross. The rectangle is defined by bricks projecting about an inch with their long sides out.

The masonry is generally in superb condition except for some repointing needed at the sandstone steps and some joint deterioration in the parapet areas.

There is a back projection the width of two classrooms, so that each floor has four classrooms. The long dimension of the front classrooms is parallel to the street, while the long dimensions of the back classrooms is perpendicular to the street.

St. Ann's School is valuable as a corner anchor for the Catholic Institutional block which is identified as St. Basil's.

Michael Keefe

North Waterloo Region



JOYCE ARNDT

The Hotel Waterloo, dating from 1890
4 King St. North, Waterloo

THE CANADIAN IMPERIAL BANK OF COMMERCE A TALE OF TWO CITIES

Residents of Waterloo were surprised at the end of 1989 to learn that the historic Hotel Waterloo, a landmark for 150 years at Erb and King Streets, was sold to the Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce. The CIBC opened its first Waterloo branch in the corner section of the hotel in 1889 and remained there for over twelve years. Since 1914 the branch has been located at 27 King Street North. When Waterloo LACAC found out that CIBC's purchase of the Hotel Waterloo was imminent, it was shocked to learn that the bank was considering demolition of the hotel and subsequent construction of a two or three-storey structure.



BOB ROWELL

CIBC King Street, Waterloo

Waterloo Council Responds – January 8, 1990

Because the CIBC was considering the possibility, although not necessarily the certainty, of demolition of the Hotel

Waterloo, LACAC recommended to City Council the designation of the King and Erb Streets facade as a heritage landmark. Council unanimously supported LACAC's recommendation to do so. The designation set a precedent, as it marked the first time that a structure in Waterloo was designated without the owner's approval. Consequently, the bank is now gathering information on the cost of conversion, and, if the price is right, appears willing to accept designation. Otherwise, the bank will not hesitate to demolish the old hotel and construct a modern structure to suit its purposes.

Why did City Council Act Promptly and Decisively?

Waterloo LACAC was anticipating for a few years the designation of the King-Erb façade in order to retain the integrity of a major crossroads downtown with a heritage building on each corner. If this landmark were razed, then the whole corner could be threatened. There is always a fear that a commercial or financial institution will destroy a fine Victorian building and erect an office building incompatible with the streetscape. Downtown areas of the neighbouring cities of Guelph and Stratford are witness to such redevelopment.



KITCHENER LACAC AND KITCHENER CHAMBER OF
COMMERCE, Kitchener: A guide to its heritage (booklet)

CIBC main branch downtown Kitchener
1 King Street East

The CIBC in Waterloo's Twin City

At its main branch downtown Kitchener, the CIBC, because of firm pressure from Kitchener Council, saved and restored their building. In its thrust to rejuvenate the core, Council maintained that the bank produce plans more in keeping with city aspirations. The bank then abandoned plans to demolish the "Germania Block" built in 1885 and proceeded with restoration. The exterior of

the Renaissance Revival landmark was designated in 1988; the heritage of a banking institution on this site since the 1880's was preserved.

FALL MEETINGS

In September, the management of the famous Walper Terrace Hotel invited us to tour the premises and discover the grand hotel tradition. A history of the southwest corner at the intersection of King and Queen Streets indicates the existence of a hotel since early days of settlement. About 1835, Frederick Gaukel owned a coach inn, which after a number of owners, burned down in 1892. Previous to 1835, there may also have stood Phineas Varnum's tavern, blacksmith shop and log cabin, a temporary lodging for immigrants. After the fire of 1892, Abel W. Walper purchased the site, and with his son, C. H. (Currie) Walper, built the handsome, red brick structure, four storeys high with a tower overlooking King Street. When the hotel was sold in 1908 to Joseph A. Zuber, the new owner added two storeys to create the hotel's present appearance. For over seventy years, three generations of the Zuber family provided fine European cuisine in an atmosphere of elegance. After renovating and refurbishing the hotel in the 1980s, the present owner, Fred Lafontaine, and architect, Richard Williams, received an Ontario Renews Award (1984). A heritage landmark designated by the City of Kitchener, the hotel also received the first commercial heritage award of the Waterloo Region Heritage Foundation.

In November, Provincial President Roy Turner gave an overview of the organization and activities of ACO at the provincial level. Most of the eleven branches have formed from a crisis over saving an old structure in a community. The formation of the ACO itself grew from such a concern over the possible loss of Barnum House, Grafton. The late Eric Arthur, professor of architecture at the University of Toronto, along with some influential citizens, bought the house for \$4,000 in 1933, and subsequently founded the ACO. The President also cited problems common to all branches: the dreams and schemes of developers, which (usually) include the demolition of existing buildings, the inertia of government to protect endangered structures, and the resultant dwindling inventory of historic buildings. The extent to which branches can tackle these overwhelming problems depends on their efforts to heighten public awareness of

these issues and hopefully, to influence developers and municipal decision makers.

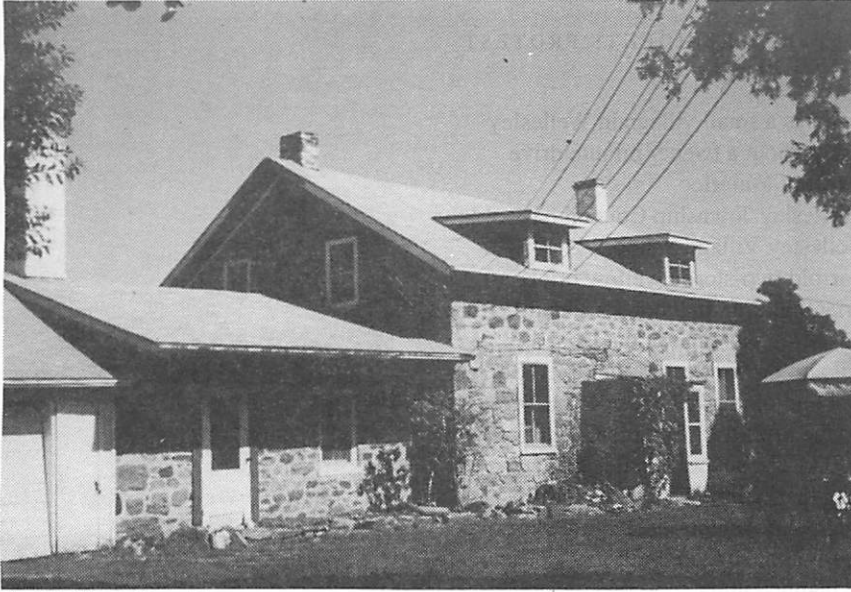
In December, the branch held its annual Christmas party at a home designed by Roy Turner early in his career. Host members Paul and Joye Krauel of 254 Stanley Drive, Waterloo, conducted a tour of their suburban bungalow, a delightful tribute to Roy's architectural expertise.

Joyce Arndt



WALPER TERRACE HOTEL (brochure)

Walper Terrace Hotel,
One King Street West, Kitchener



The Markham-Kersell house,
1198 Highland Rd. West, Kitchener

JOYCE ARNDT

URBAN ENCROACHMENT — WHO CARES FOR HERITAGE?

Like many towns and cities in Southern Ontario, every community in Waterloo Region is affected by urban encroachment. To the conservationists' alarm, urban sprawl is alive and well, thriving on farmlands amassed (quietly or otherwise) by developers. The stages of "progress" generally follow a familiar pattern of change from farmscape to cityscape. Signs along the road request a zoning change for agricultural land. Barns become derelict, as their owners, employed in a town or city nearby, no longer farm the property. Farmhouses may appear neglected, then deteriorate to a point where repairs are no longer feasible. Windows are boarded up and the structures await demolition. Developers mount their signs in the field, promising that the residential subdivision or industrial "park" will enhance the community's prosperity.

A Stone House Saved . . . Hopefully

This is the story about a young couple, tenants of a 150-year-old farmhouse, who courageously have thwarted the efforts of a developer to evict them and demolish the house which has become their home.

For John and Christine Kersell, determination and perseverance have supported them through the frustration and uncertainty of legal entanglements. In this case, the owner of the house and property is Monarch Construction Company, developer of an 82 acre parcel of land intended for (another) suburb. The company did not

include the one and one-half storey, stone cottage in the subdivision plan; rather, it expected that the tenant would be evicted in due time, and the house, demolished. Tenant of the house since 1982, John Kersell applied in the fall of 1988 to have the property designated. At that time, it was subject to a demolition permit, with construction to proceed in 1992. Through the winter and spring of 1989, the house was discussed by Kitchener LACAC, City Council, Monarch Construction and the local newspaper. In response to a published Notice of Intention to designate the exterior of the building, Monarch Construction filed a Notice of Objection; consequently, Council referred the matter to the Conservation Review Board.

James Markham is believed to be the first settler of an 80 acre parcel of land in Waterloo Township purchased from Jacob Erb in 1841. The remains of a foundation and "quick well" discovered near the present house (photo above) suggest that Markham probably built a log cabin first. About 1850, he hired a stonemason, believed to be Scottish, to construct a finer dwelling typically described as a one and one-half storey Ontario cottage. The later additions of a summer kitchen and driveshed appear to have been planned by Markham when the main house was built. The absence of windows in the masonry of the joining wall suggest this. Visible inside the board and batten driveshed (garage) are cedar shingles, squared timbers, and hand-milled boards. A hand-carved lintel graces the entry.



Ruins of barn foundation

JOYCE ARNDT

The cut stone exterior suggests a Scottish method of masonry, rather than Pennsylvania German-Mennonite masonry, typical of two-storey farmhouses in Waterloo Region. In the Kitchener area, stone construction of early dwellings is a rarity, as frame construction is the norm. In general, larger and heavier stones are positioned in courses at a lower level under the roof line of the porch, and smaller, decorative stones are

placed over it. Although the front porch has been removed, it could be authentically recreated, as the original wood beams still exist, and iron hooks protrude over the windows. Stucco originally covered the stones under the porch roof over the front door and south side door, a common practice considered to "improve" appearances. In the 1950's, the stucco was removed and new mortar applied. For this reason, the photo shows recessed joints and prominent outlines of stones under the porch roof line.

John and Christine Kersell would like to continue living in their adopted house. Over several years, John has spent time and money on repairs and maintenance, and has shared his dream with Chris to renovate/restore the interior. In June 1989, before the Conservation Review Board hearing, their marriage took place on the front lawn. The occasion not only expressed their personal happiness, but also marked their commitment to save the century farm cottage. Later in June, the Conservation Review Board did support John Kersell's arguments for designation. Furthermore, it recommended to City Council that more features be designated after further research of the house, and that approximately one acre of land be designated to protect the house from proposed grading changes around it. A parkland buffer would enclose the ruins of the foundation of the barn and outbuildings, preserving a sense of space surrounding the early farmhouse. Negotiations have continued through the fall of 1989 between the developer and LACAC, City Council and the Kersells. The Kersells now have reason to hope that their adopted cottage will be incorporated into the streetscape of a revised subdivision plan.

Joyce Arndt

Acknowledgements

Interview with John and Christine Kersell, September 4, 1989. Kitchener-Waterloo Record news articles.



JOYCE ARNDT

Double hung 2/2 sash windows
Sandstone and granite fieldstone with brick lintel

WELLESLEY RESIDENTS PROTEST HOUSING PLAN

Wellesley is a small village in Wellesley Township about a twenty minute drive northwest of Waterloo.

Wellesley Township Council has sold the old Wellesley Village School. The 92-year-old two-storey, yellow brick, Victorian building that houses a small public library, co-op pre-school, the local arts council and the Wellesley Historical Society plus 0.44 adjoining hectares of land were sold to the Wellesley Seniors Group for \$185,000. The school is a designated building that will now be turned into apartments for seniors. A large addition to the rear will have to be built to accommodate all the planned units.

Many Wellesley ratepayers are very upset with Council because they voted in January to sell the school without consulting the public first. For years the villagers have thought of the building as their community centre. Council intends to use the proceeds of the sale to build a new library and house the pre-school in the basement.

John Matthews, chairman of the Wellesley Ratepayers Association, argues that the zoning for the school does not allow apartments. If this is so, then the Wellesley Seniors Group must apply for a zone change and township council will have to hold public meetings before reaching a decision. This will give all those opposed to the sale another opportunity to raise objections.

Marg Rowell



Wellesley School

KITCHENER-WATERLOO RECORD

London Region

BRANCH ACTIVITIES

The five speakers, or groups of speakers, featured at our meetings during the past year have dealt with a variety of interesting topics. In September, Julia Beck and Elizabeth Spicer spoke about their experiences, and some of the hard decisions they had been forced to make, in the roles as general editors of the book of walks in London that our branch has recently published. Entitled *Brackets and Bargeboards*, the book is based on the annual geranium walks our branch has sponsored for many years now. It costs \$14.95, and copies can be procured by writing to the London Branch at P.O. Box 22, Station "B", London, Ontario N6A 4V3.

Our October speaker was Ann McColl Lindsay. The owner of a kitchen shop in downtown London, Ann has been an articulate and informed leader in our long fight to save the Talbot streetscape. She spoke to the London Branch about developments elsewhere that have successfully incorporated old buildings into a new development scheme; particularly interesting were some slides taken on a recent trip to Scotland dealing with commercial preservation in Glasgow. The fate of the Talbot streetscape remains uncertain, though the ACO is still raising money to support the fight for its retention.

A perfect site for our December meeting was provided by The Waverley Mansion, a nursing home that has recently occupied "Waverley", the grand home built by Charles Goodhue in 1881. The beautifully restored ground floor rooms formed a festive setting for a series of talks by John Lutman (on the many South London estates that once comprised Waverley's neighbours), Fred Armstrong (on the history of the Goodhue

and Smallman families who owned Waverley), and Nancy Tausky (on the architectural history of the house). The Waverley Mansion has added another chapter to the building's long history of architectural changes by adding another wing; unfortunately, though the new owners have attempted to make their new addition sympathetic to the old house, they have had to obscure some significant architectural features in the process.

In January we were pleased at the opportunity to hear President Roy Turner give an interesting talk about what the ACO is doing on a provincial level. His talk was preceded by brief presentations, by Elizabeth Spicer and Nancy Tausky, on the history and architecture of The Church of St. John the Evangelist, where the meeting was being held.

Lynne DiStefano concluded our regular lecture series, in February, with a lecture at Lawson Museum. She discussed a recent consultant's report advising that the site of the museum, the 1850s Grosvenor Lodge, be used for a different purpose; it seems that the ideal conditions for preserving valuable artifacts are not, alas, the ideal conditions for preserving old houses. The more formal part of her speech dealt with the Ontario cottage and, particularly, with some very attractive predecessors of this cottage form found in English, Scottish, and Irish pattern books.

A COTTAGE IN KILWORTH

Meanwhile, Past-President of the London Branch, Herb Craig, has discovered an extremely interesting cottage near home, in the village of Kilworth a few miles west of London. Herb undertook a thorough study of the Kilworth cottage in 1988 when the Township of Delaware asked the London Branch to assess the building with a view to advising about its designation under the Ontario Heritage Act. He found the cottage decidedly worthy of designation not only because of its early date, but also because of the materials and method of its construction.

The cottage was probably built in 1858 for one William Comfort, who apparently used part of it for a store and part for a residence. The back and side walls, like the foundation, are of varicoloured rubble stone construction, with a coarse river sand parge used for bonding. The five-bay front wall (with two doors) is faced with river-smoothed cobblestones laid in uniform courses. The variety of cobblestones is a



Kilworth Cottage

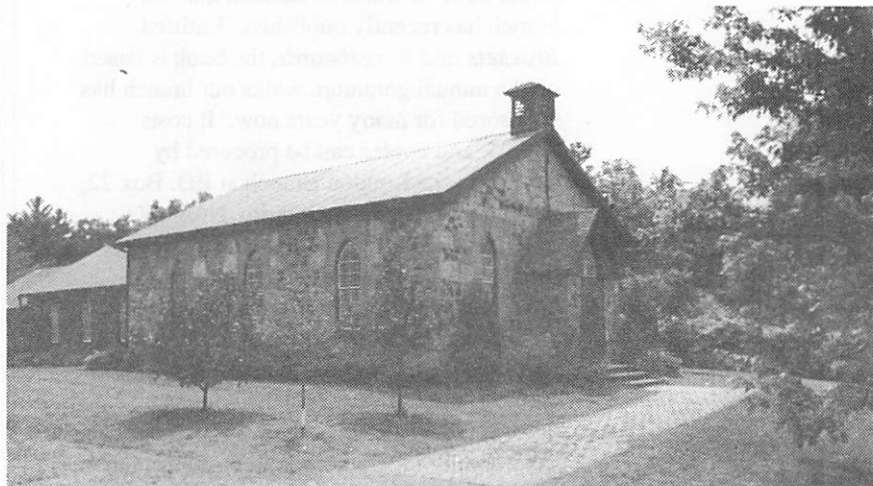
HERB CRAIG

source of considerable fascination in itself, but the particularly striking material used here is that of which the quoins and window and door surrounds are formed: a volcanic type petrified rock known locally as Wishing Well stone. (It comes from an area near Kilworth that features several hidden springs. Briefly, between 1933 and a destructive flood in 1937, the springs land was owned by Canada Dry Limited; the company created a park there, with a "wishing well", and used the springs' water in such products as "Wishing Well Orange".)

Even more unusual are the supports for the floor joists. Instead of being inserted directly in the walls, in the common manner, the joists rest on various secondary supports. See the accompanying cross-section. On the west side of the building the joist sits on a 6" X 6" adz-hewn beam, on the east side of the beam is 7" X 7". Both beams are let into both front and rear walls. In the centre, separating an 8' high root cellar on the west from an 12" to 18" crawl space on the east, is a 12" rubble stone support wall on which lies a 7" X 7" adz-hewn beam that is not anchored into the front or rear wall. The 4" X 6" adz-hewn joists of the west section sit on top of the outside wall beam and are let into the centre beam. On the east side, logs 11" in diameter have been flattened on top to accommodate the floor boards, and cut at both ends so as to sit on the support beam.

Curious, too, is the fact that the beams and joists were adzed, when there were three saw mills in the immediate vicinity of Kilworth during the 1850s, and the floor

boards above the joists are indeed 1" random width mill run boards. Herb speculates "that the builder may have used the old material from a former building." He also calls attention to one additional unusual feature: "a free-standing rubble stone chimney constructed inside and up against the east wall. It is supported on what appears to be a mass of rubble stone lime cemented into a unit."



Kilworth United Church

HERB CRAIG

THE MARK OF THE FLINT FAMILY

A handful of other buildings to the west of London exhibit some similarities to the Kilworth cottage in terms of materials, though no others share the somewhat idiosyncratic method of supporting joists. Two, in what is now London's Springbank Park near the one-time village of Byron, were built by the Flint family, and similarities in workmanship suggest that the Flints were responsible for all five structures.

Robert Flint came from England, via New York, in the mid-1830s. In 1837 he bought a five-acre farm just east of Byron, and shortly thereafter he built a small cottage there in which he lived with his wife and four children. He trained his eldest son Pirney in the mason's trade, and in 1857, Pirney and his father built a second cottage on the property for Pirney and his new wife. The front walls of the Flint cottages are also faced with river-smoothed cobblestones laid in even courses, while the other walls are of rubble stone, and the Pirney Flint cottage has quoins and window and door surrounds of Wishing Well rock. The area underneath the later house is only partially excavated, and the joists over the crawl space are rough logs flattened on top.



A close view of one of the Kilworth Cottage walls, showing the rubble stone construction and the quoins of Wishing Well rock.

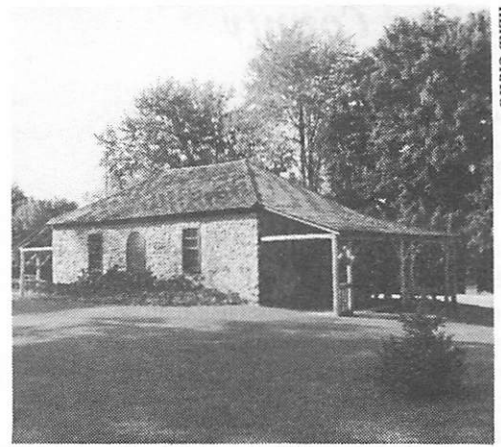
HERB CRAIG

Other buildings, a greatly altered structure on the main street of Byron and Kilworth United Church (originally the Methodist Episcopal Church), bear some striking resemblances to the cottages. Both buildings have similarly constructed rubble stone walls and Wishing Well stone trim. The Kilworth Church (c. 1850) has quoins and window surrounds of Wishing Well rock that are particularly striking because of their massive size. The original 9' X 4' windows had clear rectangular panes; when they were replaced by the smaller, stained glass pointed windows in 1876, more large pieces of stone were used to fill in the empty space.

Stone buildings are rare in the London Region, where wood was plentiful and the



The Pirney Flint Cottage (c. 1857), now providing meeting and workshop space for the Garden Club of London.



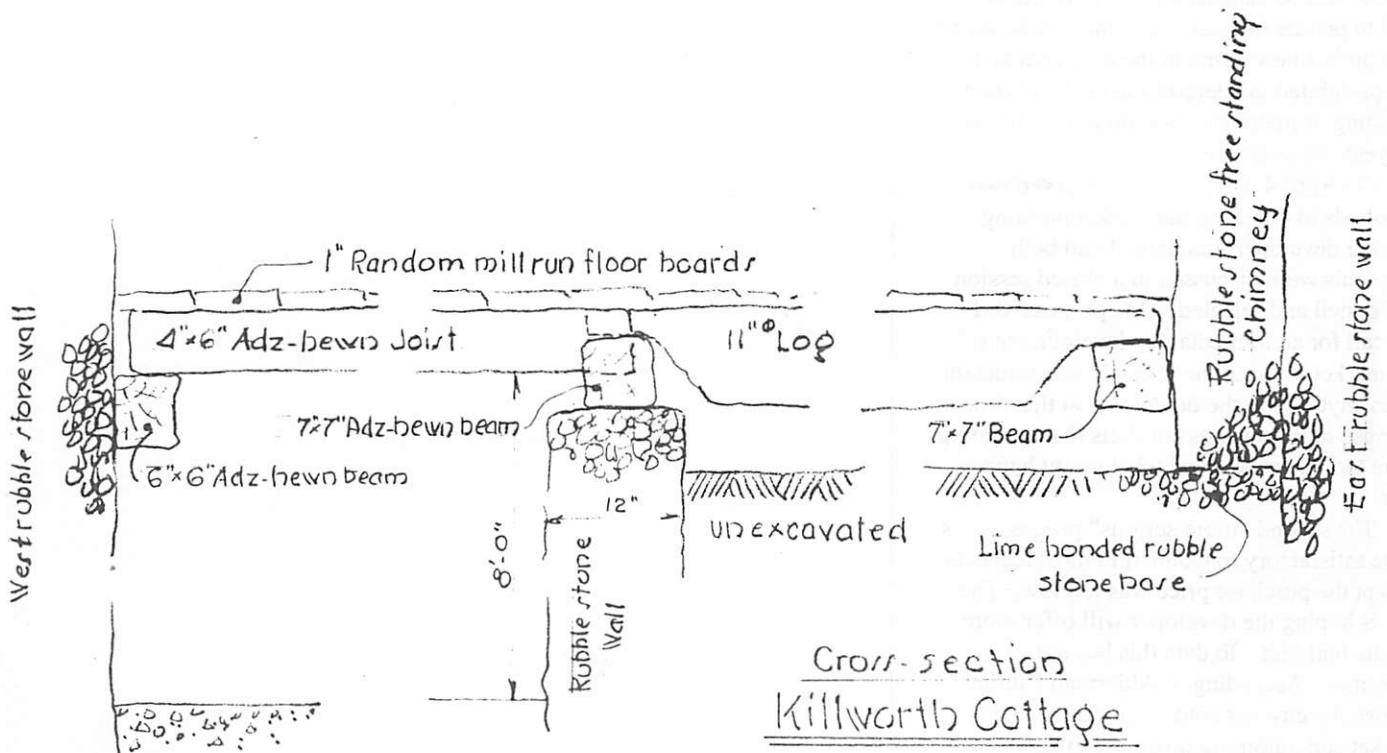
The Robert Flint Cottage (c. 1837), restored to its turn of the century appearance when it served as a stop and shelter for the London Street railway.

clay soil proved eminently suitable for making bricks. But the evidence seems to suggest that the Flints were determined to build in a tradition they brought with them to their new home, and that they managed to find in the Kilworth area the various kinds of stones needed to accomplish their set task.

Nancy Tausky

TALBOT BLOCK

Julia Beck reported at the last Council meeting that London City Council has finally agreed to designate the Talbot Block in downtown London.



Oxford County

FARMER'S MARKET BUILDING AND OLD FIRE HALL FOR SALE BY THE CITY OF WOODSTOCK

Another heritage conflict in Woodstock is on the horizon. Last year the battle of the malls ended in a stalemate. Dissension arose concerning a new downtown mall vs. a proposed peripheral mall and exacerbated by an existing mall in nearby Blandford-Blenheim township seeking permission to expand.

The local planning committee has been kept busy and the contest will only be settled, if at all, after an OMB hearing scheduled for late this year.

In the meantime, Woodstock City Council has announced that our Farmer's Market Building and the Old Fire Hall are for sale. The city is attempting to interest a private investor in developing the Market Building and an adjacent parcel of land in the City Square.

Downtown merchants will be particularly interested. If either of the mall proposals is accepted by the OMB there is expected to be some adverse effect to store owners in the business core of the city.

The sale of the Market Building has caused much controversy among heritage groups and the market vendors themselves who would be displaced if the building is sold to private interests. But the city hopes to find them a new home in the core area and has prohibited the demolition of the Market Building or major exterior alterations to the 95-year-old structure.

On April 4, City Council received two proposals to purchase the market building. Neither developer was named and both proposals were discussed in a closed session of Council and rejected. One proposal did not call for an immediate redevelopment of the market because the investor was reluctant to do anything in the downtown at this time because of the various conflicts that are going on in the downtown and what might happen to it.

The second "more serious" proposal was quite satisfactory to Council in most respects except the purchase price was too low. The city is hoping the developer will offer more for the building. To date this has not happened. According to Alderman Pauline Brown the city has sold, in principle, the market and adjoining property, to the developer without a better offer from him. Alderman Brown feels the city is giving the two properties away. She feels very strongly

the market should be retained. Six to eight hundred people visit this market every Saturday year round, and the loss of this market to Woodstock would be very damaging.

LACAC has recommended designation of both buildings under the Ontario Heritage Act on several occasions but the city councillors have not acted on their advice.

A new Fire Hall is to be built at another location thereby putting the undesignated 1901 historic Perry Street building in jeopardy. Because of these developments our Branch is facing many challenges in the near future.

UPDATE — DR. LEVI HOYT PERRY PROPERTY

The fate of the Dr. Levi Hoyt Perry 1819 property is still in limbo. The purchaser of this oldest house in the area has applied for rezoning in order to build a proposed 4-storey, 40-apartment building on the site. This is another decision to be made by the Oxford County Planning Board. Several very strong objections have been submitted. We will keep you informed.

Edwin Bennett
Marg Rowell

Huron County

This is a quiet time in Huron County as we move into spring, some activity is afoot in the various communities with respect to heritage activities.

In Bayfield, a study recently concluded pointed out the outstanding potential for the use of the old Town Hall as a conference centre. To this end, a private board has been set up and is now well under way in securing the funds for the first stage of the project.

The Box furniture store in Seaforth is now under construction with the replacement of the ornate wooden turned work seen in turn-of-the-century pictures. Several unanticipated brick arches which span the shop windows of the south section of the store front were uncovered with the removal of the modern siding. These were covered and will be covered again by the finished cornice but are an interesting discovery. Completion is projected for mid-summer.

The Rottar Building (formerly the Glove factory) in Wingham is also under construction with the replacement of its galvanized iron cornice work. Over the years since 1880, bird droppings had severely corroded the original material making it unsafe. Most of the cornice has to be replaced, but the Contractor involved has been able to exactly duplicate the flat and rolled areas of the cornice so that the new one will be exactly the same as the original.

The Goderich LACAC is hoping to extend the Heritage District along West Street this year with a planned study of the facades and a guideline document. As well, in Goderich, the Goderich Gaol board has made a deputation to County Council with a view to the operation of the Gaol being taken over by the Huron County Museum. This will enable the Gaol to access funds for the restoration of the stonework on the yard walls which, in many areas, require a great deal of repointing. Recommendations for this work are currently the subject of a consultant's study being commissioned through the Ontario Historical Society.

Attempts are still being made to save the C.P.R. bridge across the Maitland. We will keep you posted in future issues.

The lecture series co-sponsored by the local branch of the ACO and the Huron County Museum has been a great success with the possibility of an extension to the series later in the year.

Christopher Borgal

Advisory Board

Each issue of ACORN will have brief summaries of the requests that come to the Advisory Board for assistance in evaluating older buildings. At times we will print a selection of the reports in greater detail.

Smithville

Carel Kippers completed a report on the Smithville railroad station and commercial block. The report indicated that these buildings were critically important to the town of Smithville.

*Smithville, TH&B Sta. 1904
Track Elevation, looking West*



Smithville Railway Station

Pickering

Peter Stokes has been in contact with the Pickering LACAC and has arranged to meet them at the Bentley House in Brougham, mid-March. The house has a Federal Plaque and is municipally owned. They hope to obtain federal funds to assist in the upkeep of the site (see detailed report).

Waterloo

Carel Kippers has completed a report on the Waterloo Hotel for the City of Waterloo LACAC. He visited the site on February 19th, together with Scott Amos, LACAC secretary, and Margaret Rowell, Advisory Board. This 1890 hotel, in continuous use until now, has recently been sold and LACAC is concerned that it may be redeveloped.



Smithville Commercial Building

Toronto

Early in February, I was contacted by William Kilbourn, who is concerned that the Upper Canada College Preparatory School has been scheduled for demolition. This early 1900s building, designed by Eden Smith, is located on the corner of the UCC campus and closely relates to the neighbouring large scale homes. On February 6th, I visited the site with Howard Chapman. Howard wrote a short report which was forwarded to Mr. Kilbourn for his use.

Otonabee Township

Spencer Higgins has completed a report on Maple Grove farm, a handsome stone farmhouse located in Otonabee Township, near Peterborough. The owners, Robert and Grietje McBride, have undertaken a thorough restoration, as well as research into the history of the buildings and its owners. They are concerned that the building's surroundings will be destroyed by encroaching strip development. (See detailed report).

Prince Edward County

Rodger Greig and Roy Turner completed a report on the Crawford House, Hillier Township in Prince Edward County. This 1870s house is being restored by Douglas and Ruth Crawford. Mrs. Crawford's family have associations with the house since 1904.

St. Andrew's West

In late February, we received a letter from Mr. Gordon McDonnell, chairman of the Finance and Property Committee of St. Andrew's Parish. This Parish, located in St.

St. Andrew's West

In late February, we received a letter from Mr. Gordon McDonnell, chairman of the Finance and Property Committee of St. Andrew's Parish. This Parish, located in St. Andrew's West, a tiny hamlet north of Cornwall, contains 2 historic churches. The oldest, a stone church of 1790-1800 is the oldest stone church in Ontario but has been drastically altered and now serves as a Parish Hall. The "newer" church of 1861 is in the plain Gothic style but contains a remarkable altar by Montreal sculptor Philippe Liébert. They are asking for advice on stone restoration and attic problems with insulation-ventilation. We need a volunteer for this interesting project which is so far away from our members.

William J. Moffet

THE BENTLEY HOUSE, 1857 BROUGHAM, ONTARIO

The following is part of a summary from a detailed report.

This remarkable polychromed brick house in the neo-classical vernacular of South Central Ontario is a landmark building of great architectural merit, expressive of the aspirations of its first owner and his association with the community. Its unusual design was enhanced by the addition of a lantern and front porch not long after its construction which makes the composite no less outstanding. It is one of several houses in the area exhibiting similar details, the special interpretation of the Palladian



Bentley House, Brougham

PETER JOHN STOKES

window for one and brickwork in contrasting "white" detail on a red ground, but here the combination is singularly noteworthy.⁽¹⁾ Much of the original exterior detail survives. The house occupies a large site of about four acres at the southwest corner of Brock Road and Highway 7, the frontage to the former mainly clear, with a deep largely wooded lot behind.

The house was also notably up to date in its arrangements for the time of building and provides a very compact and well organized functional layout totally contained within the simple two-storey rectangular structure. Most of this is easily recognizable though more recent renovation has taken its toll on the original simplicity of the plan. Interior detail is, however, relatively straightforward and generally less pretentious than the design of the exterior would imply. The more elegant and intricate trim is seen downstairs, but a common treatment to all formal spaces occurs and even includes the kitchen, yet there is no longer the hierarchy of trim one associates with earlier buildings indicating room uses, and plaster decoration seems never to have been a feature. Upstairs the finish is a strong contrast and more to period, the architraves to openings, for instance, having a plain picture-frame effect of slightly bevelled trim mitred at the upper corners. Further details are available in the report.

The present situation of the house suggests that more careful conservation of this remarkable structure should be practised. More recent repairs have used neither proper procedures nor appropriate materials and some neglect of maintenance is now evident.

The report then lists 14 items that need attention, and in conclusion Peter Stokes states that this remarkable monument, the Bentley House built in 1857, which has survived to grace Brougham's main corner, should continue to do so. But its future must be secured by the proper conservation of its fabric and features to ensure that it remains a landmark for future generations to enjoy.

1. Except for its added belvedere it is remarkably like the McKinley House in West Flamborough, dated 1855 by Marion McRae and Anthony Adamson in the *Ancestral Roof*, Pl. 182, pp. 209-10.

Peter John Stokes
Consulting Restoration Architect

REPORT ON MAPLE GROVE FARM
North Half of East Half of Lot 27,
Concession VI, Township of Otonabee,
County of Peterborough

Introduction

The Advisory Board of the Architectural Conservancy of Ontario was contacted by telephone on October 17th, 1989 in order to obtain an opinion on the situation and merits of Maple Grove Farm with particular regard to a proposed industrial park development adjacent to the property.

The writer visited the property on January 30, 1990 and inspected the main house and surrounding grounds. A comprehensive summary of the history of the property and background information on the surrounding lands was provided by the owner of Maple Grove Farm, Mr. Robert McBride.

Lot 27 is located on the north side of the King's Highway No. 7, approximately five miles east of the City of Peterborough, and east of the 6th Line (Highway 134). Maple Grove Farm is situated in rolling countryside comprised of arable fields and woodlots. A large drumlin runs diagonally across Lot 27 screening the farm from the large "Royal Homes" factory which has been built on the western half of Lot 27.

The owner of the western half of Lot 27 proposes the development of the western half of Lots 27 and 28 into an industrial park. Needless to say the owners of the eastern half of Lot 27 are concerned with the environmental impact that the construction of this industrial park will have on their home and property.

Historical Background

Transcripts of the Registry Office records for Lot 27 and 28 indicate that the original Patent for the lands was granted to Robert Brown, one of the original settlers of Otonabee Township. The farm remained in the Brown family until 1879 when it was sold to John Lang. The property remained in the hands of the Lang family until 1959. After a series of owners the farm was purchased by Mr. and Mrs. Robert McBride in 1975.

Mr. D.G. Nelson in her compendium ⁽¹⁾ mentions Robert Brown as part of "...several families who came out in the period of 1825-30 through the Private Scottish Emigration Societies." In the same book an 1860 map of the farms of the Township shows Lot 27 as belonging to Robert Brown and named Maple Grove Farm.

The Lang family were prominent members of rural society. The community adjacent to the Lang Mill "...was originally

called Allendale Mills. This was later changed to Lang as there was another Allendale, and it caused postal confusion. It was renamed after Squire Wm. Lang who built the carding mill one mile to the north in 1845."⁽²⁾

John Lang served the Township as Warden of Peterborough County in 1884; Councillor of Otonabee Township from 1873 to 1876; Deputy Reeve from 1877 to 1879; and as Reeve from 1881 to 1887. He was "...elected to the Dominion Parliament in 1886 as liberal member and served for 3-4 parliaments."⁽³⁾

The House

According to assistant curator of the Lang Century Village the original farmhouse apparently was built in 1854 by Robert Carter, a local contractor. An addition was constructed to the rear about twenty years later. The house is an attractive one and one-half storey vernacular Georgian rubble stone building with a stone-gabled roof and brick end-chimneys. The addition to the rear is designed in a later Gothic cottage style.

The original house is centre plan with a staircase leading up from a small front vestibule to the second floor. The main entrance is centred on the front with a side-lit and transomed entrance doorway. There is a pair of 12 over 8 double hung sash windows on the front and each side, and a pair of 6 over 6 double hung sash in each gable end. A relatively modern dutch dormer has been positioned over the main doorway.

The addition has been built against the original building using a simple pattern book design. It is unclear whether the two buildings were originally connected by an internal doorway, or whether they are constructed as two abutting buildings with separate footings.

The two buildings have been visually linked with a wooden porch which runs along the south and west sides of the buildings. A modern porch has been added inside the ell at the rear of the buildings. An early photograph (c. 1880) shows a new wood-floored porch along the west wall with scalloped fascia trim along the original house porch. The floor of the porch was replaced with concrete some time ago and the plain posts replaced with wooden neoclassical columns.

The buildings are fine examples of vernacular rubble stonework and are in a good state of repair. The corners have been laid up with large squared granite quoins and the walls filled in with rough-coursed granite rubblework laid up in lime mortar. The

photograph shows lime mortar joints sensibly following the rough stone blocks, much like the present jointing condition. The photograph of the newer addition however shows finely coursed lime putty tuck-pointing imitating squared rubblework. This has all fallen off to reveal the rough squared granite blocks and fillers.

The soffits and fascias of the buildings appear to be original and in a good state of repair. The roofs have been recovered with asphalt shingles.

The window lintels of the older house are of painted wood whilst the newer building has flat brick arches in front of a concealed wooden lintel. Most of the window sash have been replaced with good copies, and the original frames and most of the interior window trim remain.

The interiors of the houses have been extensively renovated, but the character of the interiors has been carefully retained. There are some minor structural matters that should be addressed in the rear building.

Generally, the buildings are a good example of vernacular Ontario building stock in better than average condition. The new porch to the rear has been added in good taste and complements the original work. The newer porch columns represent part of the evolution of the building and now should be regarded as part of the historic suite. The overall effect is very pleasant and sympathetic to the landscape.



View of Maple Grove Farm
from south-west

SPENCER R. HIGGINS

Outbuildings

Adjacent and to the west of the farmhouse is a wood-framed drive shed which is used as a garage. It is in good condition. About two hundred feet to the south is a fine grouping of three attached wood framed barns with a

lean-to. We understand that the barns predate the houses.

Situation

Maple Grove Farm is approached from Highway 7 over a gravel right-of-way lane running diagonally across the south half of the Lot. To the west of the lane is a large woodlot covering most of the south property. To the east of the lane is an open field looking down to the adjacent farm and creek.

To the west of the drive shed is an open cultivated field rising steeply to the drumlin ridge. Near the top of the ridge is a fence line marking the boundary between the east and west halves of Lot 27.

To the north of the farm are open cultivated fields and, in the distance, woodlots screen the main CPR right-of-way running across Lot 29.

Much of the beauty of the landscape is a result of the open nature of the views and clear sight lines to the horizon. This has resulted in the retention of a nineteenth century rural landscape free from highway noise and commerce.

Adjacent Development

The owners of the west half of Lots 27-28 have engaged the Greer Galloway Group of Engineers and Planners to prepare a Plan of Subdivision of these lands for industrial park purposes. The proposed plan of subdivision appears to have been laid out to maximize the number of lots on the property and takes no account of the terrain and surrounding landscape.

If these plans are approved and carried out, a row of industrial buildings with their attendant storage and parking areas will appear along the horizon behind the fence line at the centre of Lot 27. This would destroy the scenic beauty and quiet enjoyment of the property owners to the east. This would also reduce the value of the property. We also have concerns about the ground water quality on Maple Grove Farm as the property is downstream and below the proposed industrial development.

If the proposed development is approved by the Authorities we strongly recommend that all development be kept behind a buffer zone established well back of the ridge line running diagonally across the Lots. A height restriction should be placed on all buildings in the subdivision to contain the building envelope under a sight plane running from the second floor the Maple Grove Farmhouse to the ridge.

Conclusions

It is our considered opinion that Maple Grove Farm in its present state is of significant historical and architectural importance to Peterborough County and should be protected from unnecessary alteration and aesthetic disturbance. The buildings are well documented historically and are in good repair. Designation of the property under the Ontario Heritage Act, including the views, outbuildings and farmhouse, should be considered on historical grounds because of the links to one of the earliest settlers of the County, Mr. Robert Brown, and to Mr. John Lang MP, a prominent citizen and early settler, as well as on architectural grounds as being an excellent and well preserved example of the evolution of vernacular architecture of Upper Canada.

We consider it unfortunate that the strip blight of industrial and commercial development has been allowed to creep along Highway 7 so far west of Peterborough. A line dividing urban development and rural farmland has to be drawn somewhere, and we strongly suggest that the controls suggested in this report define this line.

1. "Forest to Farm", D. Gayle Nelson, Otonabee 150th Anniversary Committee, 1975, p31
2. Ibid, p. 110
3. Ibid, p. 214

Spencer R. Higgins, M.Arch.
Consultant in the
Conservation of Historic Buildings

Fairfield House and Park

Fairfield House is a structure of Provincial heritage significance. Located just west of Amherstview, and about eleven miles from downtown Kingston, on the Loyalist Parkway (Highway 33), Fairfield House stands on its original lakefront site. Surrounding it is a 7-acre park, which is part of the 1784 land grant to Loyalist William Fairfield.

In that summer William and Abigail Fairfield with nine children arrived and began the years of work that provided the family with a homestead and farm. Fairfield House was completed about 1793. The ample 2 and 1/2 storey house reflects the New England roots of the family. It retains much of the workmanship of the Loyalist builders.

Fairfields owned the property from 1784 until 1959 when Elizabeth Fairfield granted the house and some surrounding land to the Ontario-St. Lawrence Development Commission which agreed to *assume the responsibility of preserving the said premises as an historic site.*

Fairfield House with its surrounding park has an unusual richness of historical resources. These are particularly valuable because the material is all primary to the site and extends back to the earliest years of settlement in the province.



Fairfield House, Amherstview

BOB ROWELL

In addition to Fairfield House, the historical resources of this site include the Fairfield Papers, held for the St. Lawrence Park's Commission by Queen's University Archives, and a collection of artifacts and archeological material from the house and site. Such integrated material — site, building, artifacts, and documents — can be said to be practically unobtainable today.

Even without catastrophes such as fires, a gentle, erosive process has been at work since settlement days. Changing of ownership of properties meant the inevitable dispersals of possessions through the years. Even by 1867, a local historian could remark about the Ernestown neighbourhood of the Fairfields that *there are not more than 10 to 12 of the farms on the front owned by descendants of the original settlers.*

The province was fortunate to receive Fairfield House and its contents.

The parkland itself has historical significance. Originally part of the extensive Fairfield farm, it still contains remnants of the Fairfields' orchard west of the house. In front of the house and along the shore passes the original roadbed of the Kingston to Bath Road. The convenience of this road perhaps encouraged the Fairfields to start the tavern operated in the house from 1802 through the first half of the 1800s.

Early in the 1960s, Highway 33 was diverted around to the north of Fairfield House to form Fairfield Park. Through the summer of 1983, the St. Lawrence Parks Commission operated the park as a picnic area. From about 1967 through 1983, overnight camping was accommodated.

In 1984 the Ministry of Transportation and Communication commemorated the early road by renaming Highway 33 "The Loyalist Parkway" and locating memorial "gates", a monument with plaque, and planting beds on both sides of the highway north of Fairfield House.

Although the last Fairfield using the house died in 1973, it was not until 1976/77 that the preliminary architectural investigation was done by Peter Stokes. Major work on the house was undertaken in 1983 to prepare the house for its operation as an historic site. The work was supervised by Peter Stokes. In September 1984, Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II officially opened the Loyalist Parkway and then visited Fairfield House.

We visited the Fairfield House some years ago and found the tour to be of great interest since the display emphasized the

structure of the building. We also visited the Gutzeit House in Bath that was owned by a sister of Miss Fairfield. It too was built in the late 1790s. Although quite altered, it is a very attractive building situated on attractively landscaped grounds beautifully sited on the water. This house also belongs to the St. Lawrence Parks Commission.



RODGER C. GREIG

Fairfield House, front hall

Both these important early examples of our architectural heritage will not be open to the public this season. The St. Lawrence Parks Commission argues that the cost of maintaining the homes and staffing them is too expensive. Low attendance figures at the Fairfield House is another reason cited for the closure of the house. In the case of the Gutzeit House the Village of Bath looked after applying for grants for students to staff the house in the summer. Unfortunately grants are not available for this house for the coming season.

Naturally the local people are quite distressed by the decision to close Fairfield House, as we all should be. When properties are deeded to a public body for preservation, surely this should insure ongoing maintenance and public access.

We understand from a report done by André Scheinman, a heritage preservation consultant, that work is required on the roof and on the structural support system. Hopefully the St. Lawrence Parks Commission will not ignore these problems.

The local effort to urge the Parks Commission to reconsider their decision and try to find a solution to the dilemma is being spearheaded by the former supervisor of Fairfield Historic Park, Barbara Snyder. A group called the Friends of Fairfield Historical Park is being formed. You may contact them and offer your support by writing them

*c/o Barbara Snyder,
14 Harcourt Place,
Amherstview, Ontario
K7N 1L5*

We would also urge you to write:

*Mr. George Segal, Q.C.,
Chairman,
St. Lawrence Parks Commission,
74 Brock Street,
Kingston, Ontario
K7L 1R9*

We are grateful to Lily Inglis of Kingston, a member of the Advisory Board, for making us aware of the situation and to Barbara Snyder for the material for this article.

Marg Rowell



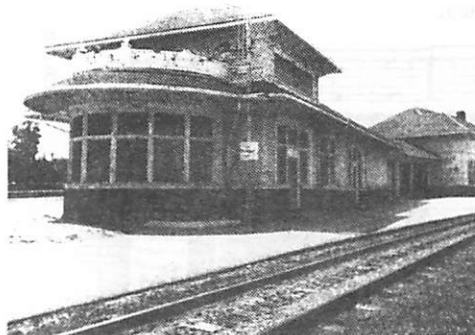
BOB ROWELL

Gutzeit House, Bath.
Altered in 1930s.
West and south façades.

Around and About Ontario

Barrie

Developer Bob Johnston's plans for the renovation of the CN station in Allandale (Barrie) were chosen over 17 other proposals. The project should start this spring and Mr. Johnston has promised heritage groups they won't be disappointed with the final results. The structure will be upgraded but not altered. The plans include an elegant restaurant, encompassed by railway memorabilia and four specialty boutiques in the 10,000 square foot building.



Allandale Station

BARIE EXAMINER

Cambridge

Cambridge LACAC is recommending designation of the Clare Brothers' industrial buildings on King Street near the river (Preston). The developer plans to keep the 150-year-old Clare Brothers' residence and adjacent stone building along the Speed River. The plan is to incorporate the buildings in the overall plan for 30,000 square feet of commercial, retail and office space and a 100-unit condominium development overlooking the river.

Huntsville

Maureen Hunt, chairman of the Huntsville LACAC, led visiting history buffs on a tour of Huntsville buildings. The town's founder was Captain George Hunt who arrived from Montreal in 1869.

The Captain prohibited drinking on his land until all of Queen Victoria's grandchildren reached the age of 21, so the town grew on the hilly opposite side of the river, not on Hunt's flat side. Many core buildings are of brick to comply with an 1894 by-law after a fire. A number of small bungalows near the school were built for workers near a tannery.

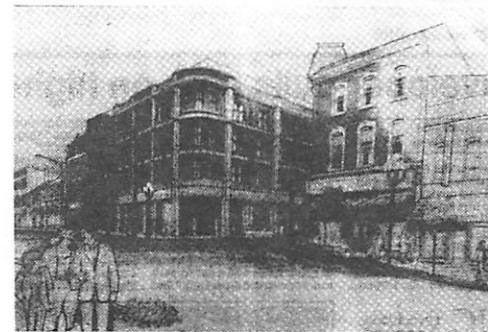
The town hall was built in 1926. The clock tower came from Union Station in Toronto, which the architectural firm, Ellis and Belfry, was working on at the same time.

Town Council approved an application to remove the historical designation from Harmony Hall because the potential buyer wanted freedom to make changes as she wished. As a result of this, LACAC is no longer seeking out buildings to designate, and will instead concentrate on educating people about the history of Huntsville.

Kingston

Efforts are being made to preserve the last remaining façade of a 148-year-old building at Princess and King Streets. A fire gutted the designated building in 1988 and the former owner, Toronto developer Richard Christie, demolished the buildings and left the façade.

The present owner, Dacon Corporation, has spent money to preserve the façade and is going to great efforts to incorporate the historic façade into a proposed new \$15 million Royal Block.



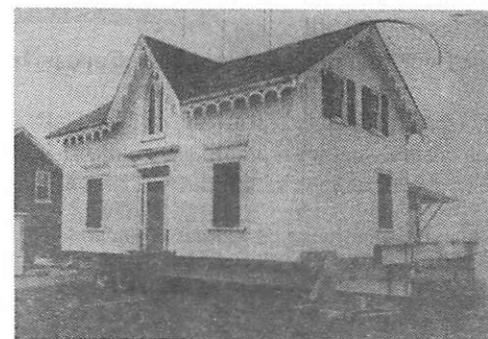
Royal Block, Kingston

THE WHIG-STANDARD

Lindsay

John Humphries, the owner of the designated 1861 New Royal Hotel, plans to restore the building to look more like it did in 1861. It will be commercial space on the ground floor and office space on the second floor.

The aluminum siding is off to reveal the iron pillars on the façade. A new cedar shingle roof is planned, as well as replacing the present windows with arched ones.



Anderson House, Whitby built in 1870, moved to Cullen Gardens.

WHITBY FREE PRESS

North Bay

The 102-year-old District Courthouse in North Bay was demolished the weekend preceding Heritage Day, after a seven year battle to save it. A new \$11 million courthouse has been erected next door to where the old one stood. This was North Bay's last 19th century building, designed by architect Kivas Tulley in the Georgian style. It was an 11 by 18 metre building erected on a stone foundation supported by hemlock pilings. Built entirely of brick and pine beams, the exterior walls were two feet thick in places.



District Courthouse, North Bay being demolished

Ottawa

Maplelawn, an 1830 20-room Georgian mansion on Richmond Road, is for rent. Owned by the National Capital Commission, the house named one of Canada's top 40 heritage buildings, was sold by Lloyd Rochester to the NCC in 1952 to preserve it as a heritage property.

Options for the home include renting it as a single-family dwelling, turning it into offices or making it into a diplomatic residence.

Petrolia

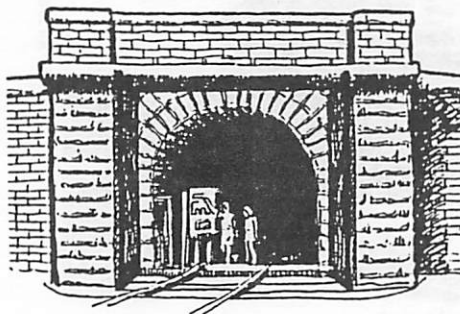
Victoria Hall, Petrolia's restored town hall, sustained a disastrous fire in January 1989. A small group of residents led by Lorne Cope is gathering names on a petition to have the exterior brick walls demolished even before an architect's report on the viability of restoring Victoria Hall has been completed.

The group is advocating a new single-floor building be erected. Mr. Cope is in favour of rebuilding the clock tower that had been a distinctive feature of Victoria Hall but is unsure whether it would look out of place on a contemporary building.

All of this information has been gleaned from press reports made available by the Heritage Branch of the Ministry of Culture and Communications.

Brockville Tunnel

This year marks the 130th anniversary of the opening of Brockville's railway tunnel. The tunnel was created amid controversy, financial reserves, and labour unrest. Although the main railway line could have been connected to the St. Lawrence waterfront by a less expensive method, the owners of the fledgling Brockville and Ottawa Railway and the Brockville town leaders decided a railway tunnel would crown their achievement. After six years of labour and financing troubles, the one-third mile long tunnel was opened in 1860 to great fanfare. It is the oldest railway tunnel in Canada and one of the oldest in North America.



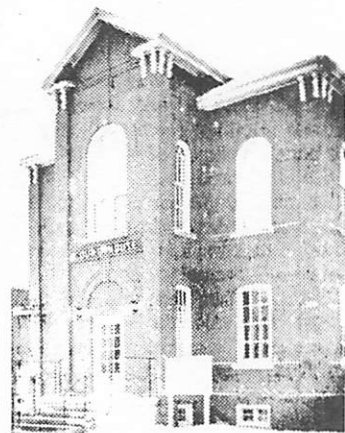
Brockville Tunnel

After it was closed in the 1950s, the city, for safety reasons, slowly began filling it in. However, a few years ago the Armagh Sifton Price Park was created on the banks of the St. Lawrence. As part of this development, the first eighty feet of the river end of the tunnel was restored and developed as an historic site. Inside, one can see the old rails and an exhibit, created by the Brockville Museum, celebrating the history of the tunnel. Outside the tunnel entrance is an old caboose which houses a display on the life of a railroader and a sales counter selling railway memorabilia and publications. The tunnel's anniversary will be celebrated this summer by various events which may include a reenactment of the laying of the cornerstone. The future of the remaining length of the tunnel is under discussion.

From Impact May 1990, a publication of Heritage Canada.

Ottawa

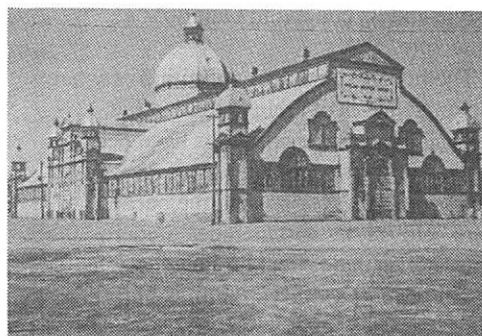
Once again Ottawa's Aberdeen Pavilion has been saved from demolition. For nearly ten years the fate of the deteriorating Pavilion in Landsdowne Park (the home of the Canada Central Exhibition) has been hotly debated. Affectionately known as the "Cattle Castle", the Pavilion has been an Ottawa landmark since 1898. The Pavilion can trace its roots



District Courthouse, North Bay

to Britain's Crystal Palace of 1851. It is the last surviving example of its kind in Canada, and perhaps in North America. Its eccentric composition of cupola and dome, turrets and towers, Palladian-style windows, Ionic columns, and gargoyle-like heads of lion, horse and steer over each entrance, was originally covered in a riot of colour. Structurally it is also interesting. Under the flamboyant exterior is a spare framework of steel and pressed metal, innovative for its time. As well, the steel metal covering the skeletal framework was an early example of "curtain wall" technology which made the building of skyscrapers possible.

The battle seemed to be over last June when City Council voted to save the building and contribute \$5.6 million toward an estimated \$9.6 million restoration — the remainder of the money to be raised from provincial and federal sources. However, surprisingly in mid-February, an alderman moved in a committee meeting that the Pavilion project be deleted from the city's work list. Rather, the building would be offered to other buyers if they would move it to another site. If no takers came forward, the alderman stated, then the Pavilion should be demolished. The motion was carried by a vote of four to three. There were cries of outrage, for moving the building would destroy it. One alderman declared that the approved redevelopment plan of Landsdowne Park, with a restored Aberdeen Pavilion as its centre, had had its "heart" cut out.



Aberdeen Pavilion

Once again support was mobilized for the project: the media urged restoration, architectural historians sent in supporting letters, and heritage groups energetically lobbied. There were accusations of grudge-voting — some saying the Pavilion was to be scrapped in retaliation for Council's rejection of a Triple-A baseball stadium.

Going into the vote a month later, City Council was split. However, one long-time

opponent changed his mind and voted for restoration — he said the issue had become too political: "I'm very disturbed that after some 20 votes on this thing it might actually be destroyed for reasons that have nothing to do with its merit." After a tense, at times boisterous, two and one-half hour debate, the Pavilion was saved by a 10-6 vote against demolition.

The future plan is to transform the Aberdeen Pavilion into a trade show centre, which would eventually incorporate a year-round ice rink.

from Impact May 1990, a publication of Heritage Canada.

HEATHER MORIN

Book Reviews

Grand River Reflections:

Photographs by John de Visser, Grand Valley Conservation Foundation, Boston Mills Press, 1989. 155 pages, hardcover. \$55.00

Anyone who is familiar with the photographs of John de Visser knows that they can run the gamut from subtle to interesting to stunning, and this book is no exception. The photos cover the Grand River, and its major tributaries, from beginning to end; that is, from north to south. Of course, the coverage is not one hundred percent; that would be impossible in any book; but we are here treated to glimpses of the river, the river valley, its municipalities, and its people, as they appear in all seasons of the year.

In addition, we also see a bit of the area's architecture. While no attempt is made to thoroughly study this subject (this is not the purpose of the book), several of the photos are building photos, and a number of others show buildings as either a part of the scene or as background. Several excellent aerial photos also allow the examination of buildings within urban and rural contexts.

The main thrust of the book is to show the nature and the diversity of the Grand River Valley, and this it does very well with its exclusive use of colour photographs (one hesitates to just call them "pictures"). Many of the photos are of spots that the average traveller is apt not to see, or perhaps not to notice particularly. What makes the book topical, especially to ACO members, is the fact that the Grand River has recently been nominated as a heritage river, in recognition of its history as well as its beauty. Notwithstanding one hundred and ninety years of settlement history, much of the river is rural, if not wild; only now are development pressures intensifying, so that the present challenge is to keep the river so that future generations can see it the way that John de Visser has.

Bob Rowell

Toronto's Theatre Block: An Architectural History

Paul Dilse

Architectural Conservancy of Ontario, 1989. 72 pages, illustrations, softcover, \$12.00. (Available from Ballenford Books, The Roy Thompson Hall Boutique, or Toronto's First Post Office.)

The Toronto Region Architectural Conservancy has produced a most attractive,

informative and timely examination of the life of one city block in downtown Toronto — a small parcel of land that is becoming a theatrical "hot spot" once again. The editors have married a most readable and informative text with outstanding photographs, maps, diagrams and plans of the site and buildings that have constituted this hub of Toronto for over 150 years. This popular, oversize, softcover gem should hold much appeal for historians, architects, theatre buffs and anyone concerned with the viable development of the downtown areas.

Reprinted from OHS BULLETIN.

Ontario Architecture: A Guide to Styles and Building Terms 1784 to the Present (Fitzhenry & Whiteside, 255 p.)

Ontario's cities, towns and rural areas exhibit a wide variety of architectural styles, melded together to form neighbourhoods.

If you're out for a stroll, note the architectural styles, the forms and the use of different materials in each structure. The very old sections and the most contemporary subdivisions share common elements in style and design.

To help architecture buffs observe, learn, and to appreciate this mix, John Blumenson has compiled *Ontario Architecture: A Guide to Styles and Building Terms 1784 to the Present* (Fitzhenry & Whiteside, 255 p.). Twenty-seven styles are identified and extensively illustrated with a brief history of the style and its context in Ontario architecture.

The book extends our definition of what is old and what is of architectural value. Traditionally heritage buildings have been classified according to their age, says Blumenson. This book is unique because it covers "old" styles and includes modern 20th century styles that reflect heritage designs and will become valued structures in future years.

As the book identifies common elements that unite Ontario's architectural styles, it acts as a guide for identifying common elements, building terms and building forms. The book is not intended to be a complete history of architecture, rather it introduces the stylistic features found in period buildings — both when the building style was popular, when it experienced a revival and its later adaptations. A large array of buildings are included: homes, churches, gas stations and public buildings.

To outline a few of the 27 styles, here are a few you may recognize in your

neighbourhood: The first chapter deals with the Georgian Style (1784-1860). This style was brought to Upper Canada in the Georgian period by the English and the United Empire Loyalists. It proved extremely popular and it is copied yet today. The Queen Anne Style followed and is plentiful in many Ontario towns and cities as well. Begun during the end of Queen Victoria's reign, it is often called "Victorian style".

The Bungalow Style (1900-1945), reached its peak in popularity during the '20s and '30s. These houses were built side by side with little variation. The Art Moderne and International styles provided a welcome relief from the more ornate styles. Victory Housing, built after the Second World War, produced basically identical housing and introduced us to the first mass produced, pre-fabricated structures.

Fifties' Contempo Style was popular for businesses and homes during the building boom after the Second World War, until the mid-sixties.

Brutalism from the '60s and '70s introduced massive concrete structures with few windows and no decorative trim. Finally Post-Modern from 1970 to the Present, was favoured in strip plazas, food outlets and banks, combining numerous styles and materials.

Mr. Blumenson is to be congratulated for this highly readable reference book that is long overdue here in this province. Now it's up to us to take note, identify, and enjoy the eclectic and somewhat eccentric mix that combines to form our architectural heritage.

John Blumenson studied art and architectural history at George Washington University in Washington, D.C. where he worked for the U.S. National Trust for Historic Preservation. He is now a citizen of Canada and has been a Heritage Planner with the City of Ottawa. Presently he is a Preservation Officer with the Toronto Historical Board.

*Marg Zavaros
from Waterloo Chronicle*

Coming Events

DESIGNING FOR CONSERVATION WORKSHOPS

The Conservancy is at work organizing a training workshop tailor-made for members of LACACs, ACO, and other heritage organizations as well as professionals in architectural heritage-related fields. Called **DESIGNING FOR CONSERVATION**, this travelling workshop will be offered throughout the province on six weekends during the fall and winter of 1990 and 1991.

The workshop will be led by two dynamic figures within the conservation/education field; Herb Stovel of the Institute for Heritage Education and Albini Soucy, of Albini Formation Inc. They will explore the evolution of conservancy principles and the place and power of design, within the shaping process of the conservation movement today.

The Ministry of Culture and Communications has given the Architectural Conservancy of Ontario \$30,000 towards the project. It is an indication of the value the Ministry places on the services the Conservancy provides. This grant also highlights the importance of increasing the opportunities for training in heritage disciplines.

A brochure will be included in the next issue of ACORN. However, individuals wishing more information now or those interested in attending one of the Northern Ontario sessions of **DESIGNING FOR CONSERVATION** slated for the early fall, should contact Helene Fallen, Workshop Coordinator, at the Conservancy office by mail or phone (Mondays and Fridays). (See inside cover for address and phone number).

PETER JOHN STOKES BUS TOUR Weekend of October 13th & 14th, 1990

Leave York Mills Plaza 9:00 a.m.,
Saturday, October 13th

Saturday Night in Collingwood

Visit: The Mulmer Hills, Meaford, Owen
Sound, Orangeville

Walking Tour of Collingwood

Return to Toronto Sunday, 5 p.m.

Cost per person: \$140.00
includes bus, meals, lodging, but not drinks.

We need 45 persons to fill the bus.

Sorry, no final details yet. For further
information, call ACO office (416) 367-8075.

To reserve your place, send a cheque by
September 20th to:

ACO Bus Tour
Architectural Conservancy of Ontario
10 Adelaide Street East,
Toronto, Ontario
M5C 1J3

SALUTE TO ACORN

Dinner November ¹⁰~~9th~~, 1990

*

Cocktails at 5:30 p.m. (cash bar)

*

Dinner at 6:30 p.m. \$40.00

At Trinity College School, Port Hope

In honour of Dr. Peter John Stokes, BArch, LL.D., FRAIC, RCA
Editor of ACORN 1976 to 1977, 1987 to 1990

and

Marion Walker Garland Editor 1977 to 1987

and

Introducing our new Editor Margaret Rowell

Afternoon Bus Tour of Historic Cobourg

*

Proceeds to the ACORN Fund

To reserve please send a cheque to

Mrs. Donna Baker

299 Heath Street East

Toronto, Ontario

M4T 1T3

by October 1st.

In the planning stages, a speaker on the importance of critical journalism.
Final details in the October ACORN.

Bits "N" Pieces

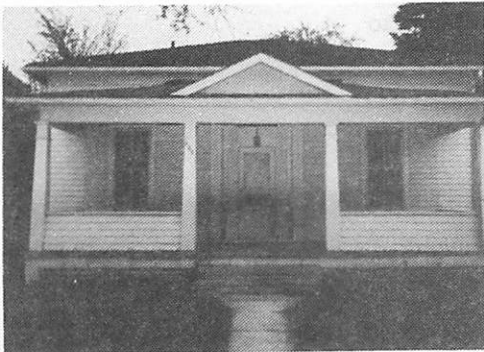
Bookmarks

A bookmark designed by Marion Garland is still available for 10¢ each.

We encourage Branches to purchase these and sell them to their members to raise a little money for the Branch. Contact Marion Garland, 86 Augusta Street, Port Hope, Ontario L1A 1G9.

Kitchener Cottage Requires Owner

The Bingeman Cottage at 209 Frederick Street in Kitchener is available to be moved from the site of a development. It is a frame Regency cottage with brick infill built in 1875. The house is one storey with a small attic. The dimensions are 25 feet wide by 30 feet deep. It has 10 foot ceilings, a large front entrance hall, panelled French doors, 2/2 double hung windows, but no fireplaces. The structure is sound. The Kitchener LACAC is proceeding with designation for the house and is very anxious to find a new owner. If you are interested please call Lynda O'Krafka, (519) 576-9784.



LYNDA O'KRAFKA

Bingeman Cottage, Kitchener

The financial support of the Ontario Ministry of Culture and Communications, the Honourable Hugh O'Neil, is gratefully acknowledged.

Printed by Woolner Press, Kitchener, Ontario.

**If not Delivered Please
Return to:
The Architectural Conservancy
of Ontario
10 Adelaide Street East
Toronto, Ontario
M5C 1J3**

